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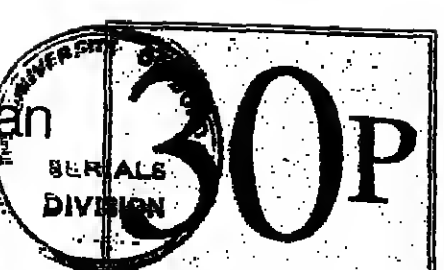
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THE TIMES

No. 64,823

FRIDAY DECEMBER 10 1993

Heath plea wins pardon

Britons freed by Saddam fly home today

By RICHARD BEESTON
AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein of Iraq yesterday agreed to free three British prisoners from an Iraqi jail, after meeting Sir Edward Heath, the visiting former Prime Minister, in Baghdad.

According to British officials co-ordinating arrangements for the repatriation of the Britons, the men should be back in London by this evening after a complicated series of flights via Jordan.

Edward Heath presented to President Saddam Hussein a plea asking him to pardon the three jailed Britons who were sentenced for illegally entering Iraq. INA, the official Iraqi news agency, reported last night. "The President pardoned them and ordered that they be set free."

The Britons — Paul Ride, 33, Michael Vainwright, 43, and Simon Dunn, 23 — had all

The release of the British hostages is part of a campaign to persuade the United Nations to lift the sanctions which are crippling Iraq

been given lengthy prison sentences by Iraqi courts. They have been held in Abu Ghraib prison, a top-security facility just west of Baghdad.

The men are expected to be issued with exit permits this morning in Baghdad. They will be flown by Iraqi helicopter to the Jordan border at Trehil, transferred to a Jordanian helicopter and ferried to Amman. A British jet, carrying the men's relatives, was expected to arrive in the early hours today in Amman, and is due to return to London this afternoon.

"If everything goes according to plan, then the men should be back home on Friday night," said a British diplomat, who repeated that the Foreign Office was helping to co-ordinate the operation, but was not directly involved in Sir Edward's humanitarian mission.

It was not clear how long the former Tory leader met the reclusive dictator, or what exactly they discussed, other than the fate of the prisoners awaiting a presidential pardon. Iraq appears to be trying to soften its image in the West. In less than two months it has set free six foreigners.

Assuming the release goes according to plan, it will mark the second time that Sir Edward has succeeded in winning the release of Britons held in Iraq. Just over three years ago, during the Gulf crisis, he undertook a similar mission and brought out 33 civilians, at that stage being held as "human shields".

Far from being a pure humanitarian gesture, yesterday's order by Saddam was part of a calculated diplomatic campaign to persuade the United Nations to lift sanctions imposed after his invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

The move represented a climbdown for Iraq, which had previously insisted that any releases be accompanied by the unfreezing of hundreds of millions of dollars of assets frozen by the British Government. It was also sanctioned by Saddam despite his bitter



The Princess of Wales was on stage at the Royal National Theatre yesterday at the ABSA (Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts) award ceremony, held in association with The Times. Wearing a dark purple suit with velvet collar, she giggled as award winners dismantled a huge metal chalice, each taking a piece as their prize. The Princess was escorted by the theatre's director, Richard Eyre, and ABSA's director-general, Colin Tweedy. Businesses honoured, page 5

Archdeacon raises wider unease over monarchy

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Ven George Austin, the Archdeacon of York, yesterday repeated his attack on the Prince of Wales. He accused the heir to the throne of inflicting public humiliation on himself by his behaviour, and described the Princess of Wales as an "aristocratic virgin" who had been used by the royal family.

Mr Austin, speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The Moral Maze*, said he did not regret his remarks in *The Times* that Prince Charles was unsuitable to be king because of his alleged involvement with Camilla Parker Bowles.

He received a response that "suggests to me that I have touched a chord of considerable unease among a large number of people". He added: "I don't think the Prince's alleged affair is the only thing. I think there is a much more general unease about what is happening to the monarchy that many of us respect."

Conceding that past monarchs had dubious private lives, he said most people today had been brought up in an age when the monarch has been a well-respected family member with a concern for duty.

Mr Austin, who is from the traditionalist wing of the Church, said there was a difference between a long marriage breaking up after many years of fidelity, and another where "someone marries, still in love with someone else, and continues that affair, almost from the day of the honeymoon."

He said: "The first thing one has to do in an unhappy marriage is see if it can be restored. But there is no hope for it being restored if another relationship is going on at the same time."

He said there was a wider question of trust involved. "If they tried very hard to find an aristocratic virgin, which we are told they did and had some difficulty, and one understands this, they found one and then used her. I'm not defending Diana because I think she has been manipulative and difficult. Nevertheless, she was used and used for many years. What does that say about the family?"

He was uneasy about the Prince of Wales succeeding to the throne because "it matters less and less that people are faithful, that they break vows, that they show that they can't be trusted. It matters for society."

The latest twist to the debate came as a spokesman at Church House, the administrative headquarters of the Church of England, denied that senior bishops have discussed with the Queen and Buckingham Palace officials possible changes in the monarch's role as Supreme Governor. The spokesman said: "This is completely untrue. No such discussion."

Continued on page 2, col 7

Second TV licence 'for extra sets'

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE government should consider introducing a second television licence for people with two or more sets in order to raise more money for the BBC, the Commons heritage committee has recommended.

The possibility of creating a car radio licence, payable either as a one-off fee or as part of the annual road tax, should also be explored in order to help keep down the cost of the existing licence fee which funds the corporation.

The cross-party heritage committee made the recommendations in a report on the future of the BBC, which will be considered by Peter Brooke, the Heritage Secretary, when he draws up his own White Paper early next year. The committee said that the BBC should be funded by the licence fee until 2006, but said that it should be allowed to seek permission to carry advertisements.

Fee backed, page 12

New drug sobers up instantly

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A DRUG which can sober up drinkers in minutes could soon be available over-the-counter.

Tests on dogs at an American university have shown that the drug works, and now a California company, CompMed Inc, has announced plans to market it as "SoberGain". A second version, Detoxabul, will be

Clarke attacks Delors plan to borrow billions

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

KENNETH Clarke yesterday attacked Jacques Delors for his "perverse" plans to borrow billions of pounds to finance transport and other public works projects, setting the stage for a fierce battle at today's European summit in Brussels.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer gave a warning that the Delors plan would mean higher interest rates across Europe. He criticised both the contents of the European Commission President's white paper on growth and jobs, which will be the centrepiece of the two-day gathering, and the manner in which he was trying to "rush it through". Britain's hostility to the Delors plan was also underlined in the Commons by Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary.

Mr Clarke and John Major were criticised by the Labour leadership last night for rejecting plans that would include investment in the much-delayed Channel Tunnel rail link. John Smith, the Labour leader, also in Brussels at a meeting of European Socialist Party leaders, said the Prime Minister was turning his back on an opportunity to finance the link. Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, accused Mr Major and Mr Clarke of deliberately spoiling for a fight with Brussels.

Mr Major is expected to find himself outnumbered in his opposition to plans aimed at creating 15 million jobs in Europe by the end of the century through measures including a multi-billion pound investment programme. But

"Choose your drink wisely.
After all,
you've got two ears and two eyes
but only one mouth."

DR FRED LE FEVRE,
COSMETIC SURGEON, CALIFORNIA.

INTRODUCE SOME CALIFORNIAN INTO
THE CONVERSATION.

E&J
SINGLE CASK MATURED BRANDY.

Yeltsin accord, page 13
Leading article, page 21

Hurricane force winds claim 12 lives

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

HURRICANE force winds which swept across Britain yesterday claimed the lives of at least 12 people.

Among those killed as winds gusted up to 98 mph was a nurse who died when a shop sign fell on her. Mary Frances Donaghy, 32, was killed when the 12-metre metal and perspex sign flew off the front of a wholesale shop in Fonthill Road, Islington, north London, and hit her as she walked past while returning home from a visit to her boyfriend.

The winds, among the strongest recorded in December, severely disrupted road and rail travel and brought down trees and power lines.

As gales across the whole country abated last night, the nine-year-old daughter of a 45-year-old woman killed in a collision in Wiltshire was fighting for her life in intensive care. Police named the dead woman as Ann Burnside of Hampton Lodge, Hampton, Highworth. Her daughter Carly, a front-seat passenger



aimed at the emergency departments of hospitals.

Dr Howard Mark, medical director of CompMed, estimates that the drug could halve the levels of alcohol in the blood from three stiff drinks in about 45 minutes. Those only slightly over the drink-drive limit would need to wait a shorter time before being able to drive. "But the good news is that the more alcohol you have, the more effective the drug is," he said.

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December winds, page 3

Wind of change shakes walls and ruffles knickers

You're just trying to get my knickers in a twist again," cried the Baroness Trumpington to the Earl Russell, in her Dick Emery "Ooh, you are awful, but I like you" voice. Is nothing sacred?

It seems not. On Wednesday Baroness Trumpington was forced to appear before a bench of inquisitors, an eagle-eyed House of Lords proposed to bring spies under the gaze of MPs. Nature is awry. No wonder the night had seen wild winds toppling walls.

Even the Lord Chancellor accepted that what peers were doing was breathtaking. "I myself felt, during the debate five years ago, that the

time was not right for such a step," he said. "What has changed?"

Lord Mackay did not say. It struck us that the Prime Minister has changed. We peered down into the ranks of peers — ghosts discussing spooks — and wondered what had drawn them to this debate. How many were ex-spies themselves — spooks of spooks? I spotted one eye-patch and a number of people with wires leading into their ears. "Theirs," said Lord Mackay, "is not the high-profile, glamorous life

own black silk stockings and little black slippers with silver buttons, combined with a silk cloak and full-bottomed wig, were hardly designed



MATTHEW PARRIS POLITICAL SKETCH

for snooping unnoticed in bus queues. Perhaps the whole thing is double-bluff, and Mackay is, if not M himself, then the big Mac.

He was followed by R. Lord Richard, Labour Leader in the Lords, spoke of the banning of trades unions at GCHQ. But trade unionists were not traitors, he said: were defectors to Moscow your typical trade union members? True, Anthony Blunt would not have prospered in the Boilemmakers' Union. R had a point. After R came... well, what

shall we dub Roy Jenkins? "W". I think. "We welcome the thrust of this bill," the ex-Glasgow MP told their Lordships. To have a woman in charge of M15, he continued, was reassuring, "even if not wholly rationally reassuring". And he conceded that the intelligence services seemed to have settled down recently: "there's been an efflux of time," he explained, without mishap. An efflux of time? Is this term common on the streets of Glasgow? We imagined Lord and Lady Jenkins at break-

fast. "I wonder why the toast hasn't popped up," worries the great man. "Hasn't there been rather an efflux of time, my dear, since you put it in the toaster?"

Later, Lord Jenkins spoke of a lacuna. A lacuna appears to be a vacant efflux. Lord Jenkins's speech took an efflux but was in no sense a lacuna. His lordship also spoke of a monoculture.

Lord Callaghan, following him, noted that he, Callaghan, had wanted a more accountable security service 14 years ago, whereas Jenkins had only wished for it seven years ago. Least this be taken as a reproach, he added, he would like express

pleasure at Jenkins's recently awarded OM.

We share Lord Callaghan's joy. But still we scratch our heads. Lord Jenkins was Home Secretary not once, but twice. Lord Callaghan was Prime Minister, and earlier, Home Secretary as well, not to say Foreign Secretary. There have been, if we may put it like this, considerable effluxes (effluxes? effluxes? effluxes?) of time during which these men were not without influence. But we search the history books for references to their own versions of yesterday's bill, and what do we find? A lacuna. A monoculture. No wonder Lady Trumpington has her knickers in a twist. After the efflux of an hour, I left.

Families of released Britons fly out to Jordan to greet loved ones

Relatives are preparing for 'reunion of the century'

By Bill Frost

JUBILANT and immensely relieved, the families of the Britons freed by Iraq after the intervention of Sir Edward Heath were last night looking forward to what one said would be the reunion of the century.

The relatives left Hatfield airport in Hertfordshire aboard a jet chartered by Virgin Atlantic en route for the Jordanian capital, Amman. Earlier in the day they had been contacted by the Foreign Office and informed that Sir Edward's mission to Baghdad had, barring any last minute hitches, been successful. As the party boarded the jet last night, Paul Ride's wife Julie said: "I am feeling sheer joy that they are going to be released. But I won't really believe it until Paul is home and we are settled back to a normal life."

Mrs Ride clutched her young son William and said: "This will be the first time they have met. It will be their Christmas this year. They have not had one together."

She last spoke to her husband in September and in his most recent letters to told her he was fed up. She said: "He told me, 'I don't want to spend another Christmas in Baghdad'. But I had to be realistic and believe he would serve the full seven years. This is just such a bonus."

Michael Wainwright's mother expressed her joy and gratitude to Sir Edward Heath as she boarded the jet. "I only got a letter this morning from Michael and he was expecting to spend Christmas over there. There was no hint this was going to happen," said Mrs Wainwright. "It has come out of the blue. My insides are in knots. I am very nervous and excited. We cannot thank Sir Edward enough."

Mr Wainwright's sister Linda said: "My stomach is churning. I have not been able to sleep or eat. I think I will burst into tears when I see him. I think it is wonderful what Sir Edward has done."

Mr Ride, 33, from Walthamstow, east London, and Mr Wainwright, 43, from Sowerby Bridge, West York-

shire, were jailed last year for seven and ten years respectively after straying onto Iraqi soil. Simon Dunn, 23, a British resident of Kuwait, was arrested in June and jailed for eight years.

Relations between Mr Ride and Mr Wainwright, who shared a cell in a high security jail outside Baghdad, were said to have deteriorated sharply in recent months. Their families agreed that the two had nothing in common.

Last night Mrs Ride rounded on the Government for its failure to secure an earlier release. "They did not do enough. They should have got them out there and spoken to the Iraqis. Words do not cost anything," she said.

John Major has been prepared to sit down and talk to the IRA. If he had been prepared to do the same with the Iraqis then this would never have happened. I am very bitter because our son has suffered in all of this."

Heather Horne, another of Mr Wainwright's sisters, praised the efforts of Sir Edward. "We have the greatest appreciation for what he has done. To go out there and negotiate on the family's behalf was a great gesture. We were 99 per cent sure he would do it, but you always have a nagging doubt at the back of your mind."

Mrs Horne remained behind in Sowerby Bridge while the rest of her family travelled to meet her brother on his release. She said: "I would have loved to have flown over as well, but my son Benjamin is performing in the school play so I volunteered to sit at home and watch it on TV."

"I am disappointed but I can't go. It's frustrating, but it's just one of those things. The main thing is he has been released. I just can't believe it."

She said that the first thing she would do when they met would be to give her brother a big hug. "We'll have a good drink and a celebration and I'll give him my Christmas card instead of having to send it to Iraq," she said.

Britons freed, page 1



Michael Wainwright, Simon Dunn and Paul Ride



Julie Ride and her son William prepare to meet the father he has never seen

Reynolds and Major ready for more talks

FROM PHILIP WEBSTER
IN BRUSSELS

JOHN Major and Albert Reynolds were last night preparing for another key meeting in their attempt to secure a peace agreement for Northern Ireland.

The two leaders arrived in Brussels for the European Council summit, with British officials reporting progress in the talks between senior officials this week aimed at ironing out the differences raised at last week's summit in Dublin.

They are to meet either today or tomorrow. Insiders on both sides predict that the two will achieve their aim of agreeing a joint declaration by Christmas, although Mr Major's aides doubted last night whether they would be able to complete the task in Brussels.

It appeared likely last night that a final meeting will be held in London next week to try to put the final touches to an agreement that both sides hope will end IRA violence. Doubts remain, however, on whether the right wording can be found.

French elan leaves British tunnel vision standing

By Tim Jones, Transport Correspondent

BRITISH Rail yesterday unveiled Eurostar, the new Concord of the rail network, which will next year whisk passengers between London and Paris at speeds of up to 186 mph.

But BR admitted that the new quarter-mile-long super train will not be ready to carry passengers through the Channel tunnel when it opens in May. The trains are due to begin a limited service in late June when travellers will be able to speed through the £10 billion tunnel from London to Paris and Brussels in just over three hours.

The Eurostar will crack through France and Brussels at 186mph but will achieve a maximum of only 100mph through the Kent countryside. While most of the 800 passengers will travel in luxury, the 18-coach train is also equipped with four canteens in which illegal immigrants or prisoners can be incarcerated.

Next week, the sleek, £24 million engine will run from London to Folkestone in its first proper encounter with the ageing Network South-East track on which it is

destined to run until a new line is opened in about ten years' time.

In limited trials, the train has proved to be too sophisticated for the track and expensive modifications are being made to ensure it receives a continuous electrical power supply.

Although Eurostar will pose a serious threat to the ferry companies, it will be many months before there are enough trains to deliver the promised service of up to four trains an hour through the tunnel.

Alleged delays in building the trains and fears that the Network South-East track is incapable of handling the projected traffic are the subject of an arbitration dispute between Eurotunnel, the company which will from today operate the tunnel, and BR and SNCF, its French counterpart.

Today's handover of the tunnel from TMI, the consortium of contractors, to Eurotunnel will involve two very different ceremonies. At the Folkestone end, the momentous event will be cele-

brated with little more than a few speeches, coffee and sandwiches. Wine will be available, but only of the non-alcoholic variety. In contrast, at Coquelles near Calais, the French will hold a spectacular celebration with fireworks, bands and champagne.

Yesterday, who they showed off the Eurostar train, European Passenger Services, the BR subsidiary that will run the service, identified the airlines as its main competitors.

To the standard-class carriages, the grey and gold velvet seats are packed tightly but they are comfortable and there is ample leg room. First-class has teak-effect tables, armchair-sized seats, foot rests and subtle lighting. The stainless steel kitchen will provide refreshments from sandwiches to gourmet meals and a room is provided for mothers with babies. Pricing will be a crucial aspect of the war which Eurostar has effectively started.

Leading article, page 21
Photograph, page 24
Trip to the future, page 29

NEWS IN BRIEF

Call for cuts to MI5

Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the former Home Secretary, last night called for a cut in the powers of MI5, scrapping its political surveillance role. He made the demand as the Lords opened its second-reading debate on measures to place the security services on a statutory basis.

Lord Jenkins questioned whether Britain still needed home and overseas intelligence services at their present size and cost. However, the operations and cost of the services were defended by Baroness Park, the former MI6 spy, who said intelligence about foreign powers was more important than ever at a time of cuts in the defence budget.

A-test troops 'safe'

Troops who took part in atomic bomb tests in the 1950s and 1960s are not at greater risk of developing cancer, according to a ten-year study. A report published yesterday by the National Radiological Protection Board and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund dashes the hopes of compensation for the veterans of the tests in Australia and the Pacific.

Child protection query

John Bowis, Health Under Secretary, yesterday called on social services chiefs to answer "serious questions" after Leanne White, 3, was beaten to death by her mother's lover. He said he needed to be convinced that Nottinghamshire County Council was doing all it could to protect children. Colin Stait, 29, was jailed for life for the murder.

New head for Academy



The architect Sir Philip Dowson, left, was elected 23rd president of the Royal Academy of Arts yesterday. He succeeds Sir Roger de Grey and inherits a tradition that goes back to Sir Joshua Reynolds. The position remains one of the most prestigious in the art world. Work by Sir Philip, 69, founder and partner of Arup Associates, includes St Catherine's College, Oxford, and Broadgate in London.

CHURCH AND CROWN

Radical critic with radio audience

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

DR DAVID Starkey, the historian who yesterday said that if the Church of England did not want the Prince of Wales to become its Supreme Governor, it should now be disestablished, has long been unafraid to put forward radical views.

Dr Starkey has achieved a national following through his contributions to Radio 4's *The Moral Maze*, on which he made the remarks. As well as supporting disestablishment, he says the 1960s sexual revolution is "here to stay" and that the so-called "moral majority" is scarcely a majority.

A graduate of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, and now a lecturer at the London School of Economics, Dr Starkey, 48, a constitutional expert, achieved recognition with his doctoral dissertation on the court of Henry VIII. He has successfully attacked the orthodox view of Tudor history. He explored the relationship between religion, faction

and politics, and the different views taken by Henry's queens and their supporters in the court.

Commenting last night on the social function of the church today, he said: "I do not like the use of the church to manipulate opinion to produce social conformity."

He has said that no constitutional implications attach to the separation or a divorce of the royal couple; the rules require merely that the monarch should not marry a Roman Catholic. He has also noted that there is more than one example of a divorced or separated king succeeding to the throne. Henry VIII was never formally divorced although his marriage to Anne Boleyn led to the foundation of the Church of England. George I was divorced and kept his wife imprisoned in a castle.

Archdeacon's unease, page 1
David Starkey, page 20

Prince's role within Church 'gives unease'

Continued from page 1
sions have taken place. The Times said yesterday that a growing body in the Church believes the monarch's role as Supreme Governor should be changed on the succession of the Prince of Wales.

A senior source insisted last night that the report was accurate, and that a range of options concerning links between the State and Church have been discussed informally at all levels, including at Buckingham Palace, although there had been no formal meetings.

He said some senior figures believed that Prince Charles was an unpopular figure within the Church, and wanted a re-examination of his future role as Supreme Governor, while supporting the continued establishment of the Church.

The wording of the Coronation oath is understood to be

under scrutiny, and the issue of disestablishment will be raised by the Right Rev Colin Buchanan, an assistant in the Rochester diocese, at the General Synod next July.

Dr David Starkey, a constitutional expert at the London School of Economics, said on *The Moral Maze*: "I do not see any reason why private virtue is a necessary or sufficient condition for public life. If we look at our kings, before the 19th century I have been able to find only four of them who were not adulterers. Three of them were dethroned or executed and one of them, George III, went mad."

Dr Starkey said that if the Church of England did not want the Prince of Wales to be its Supreme Governor in future, it should be disestablished now.

Valerie Grove, page 19
David Starkey, page 20

No doubt you're all off to oddbins.



The free tasting to end all free tastings! 2-5pm Saturday 11th December at Oddbins. Wines: 1992 Rueda Blanco Lurton D.O. Rueda £5.89. 1995 Chardonnay Sur Lie Danic de Wet £4.59. 1990 Haut-Médoc A.C. Viard £4.99. 1991 McWilliams Mount Pleasant Cabernet Sauvignon £4.99. 1991 Palacio de la Vega Cabernet Sauvignon Tempranillo D.O. Navarra £4.99. 1992 Vouvray Sec A.C. Domaine des Aubussons £6.99. 1990 Perfolde Bin 589 Cabernet Shiraz £7.49. 1991 Sancerre A.C. Les Montebains, Gilton £8.99. 1988 Petaluma Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon £9.99. Pizzas: Seppelt Premier Cuvée Non-Vintage £5.99. Perrier Jouët Non-Vintage £16.99. Port: Warre 1975 £17.99.

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Police investigate waterski champion's death in nightclub

By IAN MURRAY

A POLICE investigation was ordered yesterday into the death of Corrina Williams, 18, the former British junior waterskiing champion, after she collapsed in a nightclub.

Miss Williams, who until last year held the European junior title and was regarded as a future world champion, collapsed during a party at a Midlands nightclub in the early hours of Sunday. She died on Wednesday morning after failing to regain consciousness.

Last night John Wain, the North Staffordshire coroner, ordered a police investigation into her death even before the results of a post-mortem examination were known. She had been rushed to the North Staffordshire Hospital in Stoke-on Trent. One of five

children, she was introduced to water skiing at the age of six by her father, Dave, who was a former UK veteran champion. He and his wife had kept a vigil at her bedside until she died.

"We just cannot start to believe or understand why she was taken from us," he said last night. "It is tragic that such a young life has ended. She had taken a year out last year to work and train in Florida but had just returned and was studying at Nottingham College to take A-levels in English, maths and law. It is such a waste."

Her coach and mentor, Gary Shipman, the British junior team manager, said last night: "I still can't quite believe it. She was so bubbly, always friendly with every-

body and had a terrific potential. She was only 18 and was in contention for the world title in five or six years' time."

He said that she was dedicated to the sport and would train for three hours a day, even in winter. At the same time she was strong academically and achieved six A-grade and three B-grade GCSEs.

By the time she was eight she was already winning competitions, showing a particular ability for the difficult trick category, in which British skiers are normally weak.

Under-15 champion in 1988 and 1989, she had the distinction of being the only person ever to compete in the junior, under-21 and senior teams in the same year. Her precocious skills made her close friends with Dr Philipa Roberts, the long-standing British champion, and the two trained together.

The move from her family home in Wolverhampton to Nottingham was in part so that she could be closer to her club at Holme Pierrepont for training. This move took her away from her family and meant that she found a new set of friends.

By her own high standards she had a poor year in competitions during the past season, having suffered a whiplash injury at the start of the year and a serious knee injury early in the season which made it difficult for her to train. That meant she gained weight and performed badly in the European championships in Austria in August.

A month later, however, she was back on top form at the world championships in Singapore where she finished twelfth and was the highest placed junior competitor.



Corrina Williams was seen as a future world champion

Emergency services stretched by fiercest December winds

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

GALE-force winds yesterday pushed Royal Navy and RAF rescue helicopters to full stretch around the country. In the most serious incident, 15 crew were winched to safety from a Maltese-registered freighter that later sank in the English Channel.

Sea King helicopters from the Royal Navy air stations at Culdrose, Cornwall, and Portland, Dorset, rushed to the aid of the *Grape One*, which got into trouble between Start Point and Plymouth in Devon, in a force-nine gale.

An RAF Sea King from Brawdy, Dyfed, was scrambled to rescue the winchman from an Irish Air Corps helicopter that was in difficulty during a rescue mission off the west coast of Ireland. The Irish S-61 Sikorsky helicopter had started to winch up the crew of the trawler *Dun Boy* about 60 miles west of Ireland when the cable snapped and became caught in the rotor blades. The winchman was thrown into the sea and the helicopter put out a Mayday call.

West Wales had the highest wind speeds, the London Weather Centre said. At Pembrey, Dyfed, gusts of 98mph were recorded. In London winds of up to 76mph brought down Christmas lights in Oxford Street and Regent Street. The winds were among the

fastest recorded in December but much slower than in storms of recent years. As the winds eased, emergency services worked to restore power to more than 100,000 homes.

Mainline InterCity services between Manchester and London were brought to a standstill by fallen overhead power lines between Crewe and Rugby.

The winds felled a number of large trees at the Westonbirt arboretum in Gloucestershire, including an oak thought to be about 300 years old.

The AA reported 26,000 calls from motorists in 24 hours, more than double the normal number.

A body found in a culvert yesterday was named as that of Eifiona Jones, 64, of Criccieth, Gwynedd. Police were investigating whether she was blown from the path as she walked home from a local hall.

Police named a father and step-daughter, both landscaper gardeners, who were killed when their scooter collided with a lorry in the New Forest, as Royce Mondz, 67, and Angela Mondz, 49.

Another victim of the gales was Stephen Duffy, 40, a demolition worker who was working in Urmoston, Manchester, when a steel-framed shed collapsed on him.



The chemical tanker *Grape One* sinks off the Devon coast in a force-nine gale

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More Furniture Ideas

Man jailed for shooting over car repairs

A MAN who shot a garage owner in a row over repairs on his car was yesterday jailed for four years at the Old Bailey.

Union Mitchell, 45, shot Paul Robinson twice range after an argument about repairs to a Renault 25, their cost and the delay in carrying them out.

Mr Robinson, 44, lost part of his left hand in the shooting in April, and part of his gall bladder and his liver had to be removed. He told the court he had accepted £350 from Mitchell in January to fix the gearbox on the car. But there was a lengthy delay because parts had to be ordered and there were several arguments with Mitchell at the garage in Brixton, south London.

Mitchell, of Tulse Hill, was cleared of attempted murder but found guilty of causing grievous bodily harm.

Mr Robinson said Mitchell had called at the garage on the day in question and there was an acrimonious exchange. He had then gone to see a client. When he returned, Mitchell had come back in another car. Mr Robinson said Mitchell took something out of the boot and put it under his jacket.

Mr Robinson was frightened and armed himself with a machete which he found in a customer's car boot. "He walked towards me... He brought the gun up and I put my hands up and he shot me in the hand. I took two steps forward and he shot me in the stomach."

Salvation Army to seize £2m assets

By CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT AND ANGELA MACKAY

THE Salvation Army won a High Court order yesterday to seize £2.2 million in assets from a Birmingham businessman at the centre of an alleged plot to defraud the charity of £6.7 million. It was granted summary judgment during a hearing in chambers at the High Court in London against Stuart Christopher Ford, 41.

Mr Ford was named in a writ issued by the Salvation Army trustee company earlier this year against 15 defendants, including Mr Ford, claiming damages for conspiracy to defraud the charity of the unrecouped £5.9 million.

The funds were discovered to be missing earlier this year prompting an investigation into what appeared to be a scheme involving standby letters of credit offering a high

rate of return. One senior Salvation Army official has been dismissed and three others transferred.

More than £1.3 million was invested as part payment for a Malibu beach house. The house is one of many properties in Holland and the United States identified as being connected with the missing cash.

Judge Patten refused Mr Ford leave to appeal against the judgment.

The scandal has also prompted an investigation by the Metropolitan police Fraud Squad and one by the Charities Commission. Two men have been arrested, including Mr Ford. Nobody has been charged. Both men have consistently denied that they defrauded the charity.

Killer driver given community service

A MOTORIST who killed a girl of 14 when he mounted the pavement while driving "like a madman" was allowed to go free by a judge yesterday.

Ian Day, 23, was convicted of causing death by dangerous driving and sentenced to 240 hours' community service by Bristol Crown Court. His car had knocked Heather Mills over a road bridge and down a 50ft embankment. Her father condemned

Judge Fanner's sentence. Richard Mills, of Bath, said: "It's a terrible disappointment to see this man walk free. If he had shown a speck of regret or sadness about Heather's death he could have made our lives a lot easier to bear."

"He behaves as if it was a sack of potatoes he hit that day instead of our daughter."

Day, a Ministry of Defence worker of Bath, was banned from driving for five years.

PC pays to charge youths with assault after birthday drink

By A STAFF REPORTER

A POLICEMAN began a private prosecution yesterday against two youths who allegedly assaulted him while he was on duty.

PC Tony Stallard, 54, brought the case at Oxford Crown Court at his own expense. The Crown Prosecution Service charged the youths but dropped the case.

Kevin Crieie, 19, a plasterer, and Justin Hind, 18, a butcher, both of Witney, Oxfordshire, denied causing actual bodily harm. PC Stallard claims he was attacked as he tried to question them about the theft of two beer glasses. They were celebrating Mr Crieie's eighteenth birthday in July last year.

PC Stallard, who is based in Witney, said he saw them carrying pints of lager



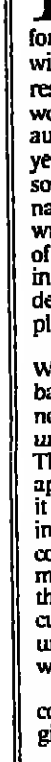
PC Stallard: told court he was pushed and kicked

through the town centre at 10.30pm. They refused to stop and he grabbed their arms. He said he was pushed in the chest by Mr Crieie. "I staggered back but then went forward again and they both came at me." Mr Crieie threw

a punch but he ducked and avoided it. The policeman grabbed Mr Crieie in a necklock but Mr Hind intervened and all three fell to the ground.

"Crieie was thrashing about like a wild thing. He kicked me several times in the legs and hit me. Then I felt kicks in my back and Hind was the only person in proximity to have done that," PC Stallard said.

Paul Reid, for the prosecution, said it took three officers to restrain Mr Hind. During questioning he said he had been grabbed round the neck by the policeman. PC Stallard, who retires in six months, denied "throwing his weight around" or grabbing the youths by the neck. "One doesn't have time to go into the finer details of a formal arrest in that situation," he said. The trial continues.



Four doctors screened the prospect. When the white teeth were casted had as long as suggested. Des

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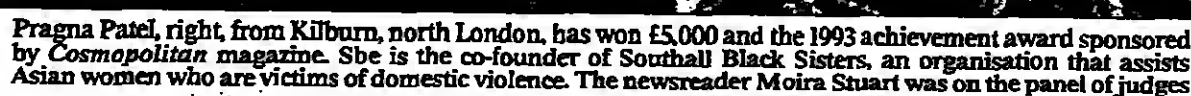
- THE UNIVERSITY
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HSE calls
policy

BY A STAFF REPORTER

Mr C insisted that M15 and Special Branch had had nothing to do with instigating the bombing plot.



**BY RACHEL KELLY
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CORRESPONDENT**

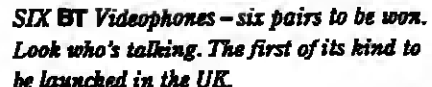
This week the council planning committee said it was "minded to approve" the tower block. Because of opposition, however, the scheme has been referred to the environment secretary.

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

Lord Taylor: DNA test not unsafe evidence

By ALISON ROBERTS
ARTS REPORTER

- ☐ **Single project:** Guinness Northern Ireland nominated by Belfast Festival at Queen's
- ☒ **Sponsorship by a small business:** Robert Golden Pictures, nominated by Opera Circus
- ☐ **Visual arts project:** RTZ Corporation, nominated by Guildhall School of Music and Drama
- ☐ **EHF Arts Award:** Book Trust for use of sponsorship from Forward Publishing
- ☐ **Arts adviser of the year:** Lorraine Trainer, of the London Stock Exchange, for work with the Tate Gallery



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Terms & Conditions. 1. This competition is open to UK residents over the age of 16 only, except employees of BT plc. 2. The competition will run from 12.00 noon on 27.07.97 to 11.59pm on 27.07.97. 3. Winners will be required to provide proof of purchase before prize can be released. (Please retain your receipt or send a recent agreement and do not post with entry.) 3. Posted entries to the competition address must be received on or before the closing date of 11.59pm on 27.07.97. 4. Proof of purchase will be required on receipt of receipt. No prize will be accepted for any entries lost, damaged or delayed in the post or otherwise. 5. **1,500,000 BT VALUE PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED.** 6. The prizes are as follows: 1. A luxury Caribbean Cruise with P&O Cruises UK Ltd. (to the value of £150,000.00 inclusive of accommodation, meals and entertainment on board). 2. Mini Cabriolet. 3. 3 of BT's Satellite Viewing Systems inclusive of basic hardware and installation. 4. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 5. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 6. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 7. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 8. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 9. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 10. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 11. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 12. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 13. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 14. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 15. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 16. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 17. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 18. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 19. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 20. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 21. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 22. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 23. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 24. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 25. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 26. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 27. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 28. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 29. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 30. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 31. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 32. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 33. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 34. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 35. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 36. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 37. 3000 BT Value Prizes. 38. 3000 BT Value 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Mobile Phones, Includes free connections to Lighthouse and mobile phone numbers. Prizes: Allstate Automobile Insurance, \$100,000; 10 Sony WMX730 Sports Walkmans, 11900 St. PF Phosphors, each containing ten sports, 12000 Omega Cinema Tickets valid at all Omega Casinos except Omega Leicester Square and Mexicanum Kaymaklar, Marlie Art, Kermagren, Swiss Cottage and Oxford West End. Admission is subject to Omega standard conditions of sale. The prize draw will take place on 18 November 2000. A cash prize of £10,000 will be awarded to the winner. The winners' details can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to the competition address 15 days after the closing date. B. Entries limited to one per household. All entries will be the property of PF plc and will not be returned. B. All entries will be judged on the degree of imagination and innovation above and prizes will be enforced accordingly. The decision of the judge is final. No correspondence or queries will be entertained. C. The winner is deemed to be acceptance of these conditions. T. The winner's card, if required, may exist in a photograph at other PF activities.

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An HSE spokesman said: "The review identifies factors which are now agreed to have the potential to cause stress. These include physical factors such as heat and noise, and pressures caused by the way work is managed."

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GP fundholding dispute

BMA says money, not need, leads to faster patient care

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

PATIENTS of GP fundholders are jumping queues for treatment or gaining other advantages in nearly half of hospitals, according to a survey that claims "fast-tracking" is widespread in the NHS.

The British Medical Association, which published the survey yesterday, claimed this was the strongest evidence so far that the NHS is operating a two-tier service. The findings show 42 per cent of hospitals offer priority treatment for fundholders' patients, and triggered an immediate dispute between doctors and health ministers.

GP fundholders, who hold their own budgets to buy routine hospital treatment for their patients, are a key element of the health service reforms and now cover a third of the population. The survey says the benefits for patients include consultant clinics held at the local surgery, quicker out-patient appointments and accelerated admissions.

The BMA claimed the results, based on returns from 173 of 247 hospitals surveyed, show that patients are no longer being treated on the basis of clinical need. But Dr Brian Mawhinney, the Health Minister, denied the charge and said he was "unimpressed" by the evidence. He claimed hospitals were using spare capacity, after completing their health authority con-

tracts, to offer fundholders special deals that were not disadvantaging other patients.

David Blunkett, shadow health secretary, said orthopaedic patients in Weston Area Health Trust in Avon wait up to eight weeks for a first appointment if their GP is a fundholder but must wait up to 54 weeks if their GP is not a fundholder. "There is clear evidence that there is a system of queue-jumping operating within the NHS," he said.

The BMA survey suggests fast-tracking is most common in Wessex Regional Health Authority, where two-thirds of hospitals admit giving priority to patients of GP fundholders, compared with only one in five in the North Western regional authority.

John Chawner, chairman of



Blunkett: evidence that waiting times contrast

the BMA's Central Consultants and Specialists Committee, said: "The reality for patients in today's NHS is that if you are a fundholding GP you will get treatment which in some cases is not available to other patients or is only available after a longer wait."

"Doctors throughout the country are committed to NHS treatment on the basis of need and this survey raises serious issues about whether the present arrangements are making this top priority."

But Dr Mawhinney accused the BMA of trying to "turn back the clock" on the GP fundholding scheme. He said investigation of an earlier list of 35 hospitals which the BMA had claimed were fast-tracking fundholders' patients had turned up "not one single example of a two-tier system".

He said: "We stand by our policy that no purchaser of health care should enter into a contract that disadvantages the patients of another purchaser," adding that anyone — GP fundholder or health authority — could buy spare capacity in hospitals.

Jim Johnson, the deputy chairman of the BMA consultants committee, said, however, that the minister's argument was specious. "It certainly isn't the view of doctors or patients when they see patients of one GP being treated sooner than another regardless of clinical need," he said.

Health authorities, who buy care for non-fundholding GPs, tended to run out of funds because they had to pay for emergencies as well as all other work, whereas GP fundholders have funds to be spent only on routine treatment. "When health authorities are broke, the only way they can get more money is by going to a GP fundholder. The two sorts of GP are on an unequal footing and prudence and wisdom about the way their budgets are spent don't come into it," he said.

A WELSH border town has been split into the haves and the have-nots by the GP fundholding scheme.

Owen Roberts, of Hay-on-Wye, Powys, has been told she will have to wait up to 18 weeks for a hip replacement operation, despite being in pain, because her local health authority has run out of money. But her orthopaedic surgeon, Dr Wye Seal, said another of his patients would get his hip replacement with-

in weeks, despite being in less pain, because his GP is a fundholder and can pay for the operation.

Dr Seal rejected the government's denial that the NHS was operating a two-tier service. "I had a letter from the man's fundholding practice saying that if I didn't do this man's operation by February, it would take his money elsewhere. This is a bit of the sort of inequitable system that has been created."

Patten gets tough on school time

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

JOHN Patten, the Education Secretary, threatened yesterday to introduce tougher instructions to schools on the length of time they teach. Provisional education department figures showed that almost 30 per cent of state school pupils are taught for less than the government's recommended hours. Junior schools are the worst offenders, almost half falling short of the recommended 24 hours a week.

Mr Patten asked Stewart Sutherland, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools, to launch an immediate enquiry into teaching time and to make recommendations for action. The review will also assess the relationship between examination results and hours in the classroom.

In secondary schools, department figures show a difference of three hours a week between the longest and the shortest time taught — the equivalent of six months in a pupil's schooling. They showed that at least 1,000 secondary schools in England were failing to teach pupils for the required 24 hours a week.

Polluters 'let off hook' by ruling

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

COMPANIES can be forced to pay damages for water pollution only if they could have foreseen the harm they caused, the House of Lords decided yesterday. The ruling was condemned by environmental groups as undermining the principle "the polluter pays".

Andrew Lees, campaigns director of Friends of the Earth, said: "The judgment means that many polluting industries could now dodge the cost of cleaning up."

In a decision with profound implications for the development of environmental law, the law lords declared in effect that companies cannot be held retrospectively liable for pollution caused when their activities did not infringe any regulations in force.

In 1985, the Cambridge Water Company sued Eastern Counties Leather, a tannery, for damages after the water company had been forced to close a borehole because of contamination by a chemical used to de-grease pelts.

In 1976 the water company bought land at Sawston Mill near Cambridge and began pumping from an under-

ground aquifer in 1979. Tests showed the water to be in compliance with quality standards then prevailing. In 1980 an EC directive imposed higher standards, and further tests in 1983, using technology not previously available, detected levels of perchloroethylene (PCE) in the water that far exceeded the limit allowed in the directive.

The water company was forced to close the borehole and sink another at a cost of about £1.4 million. In July 1991, the High Court threw out the water company's claim for damages on the grounds that the spillage would lead to quantities of PCE being found in the aquifer years later.

But in November last year the Court of Appeal took a different view, arguing that Eastern Counties Leather was guilty of nuisance, even though no fault or negligence was proved, because it had infringed the natural right of the water company to unpolluted supplies. It is this ruling that has been overturned.

Law Report, page 34

UK teenagers have highest birth-rate in Western Europe

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE UK has the highest teenage birth-rate in Western Europe, where rates fell sharply during the past decade, according to figures published yesterday.

The rate of 33 births per thousand women was exceeded only in the United States, with 53, while most of Europe had much lower figures. The rate in Spain was twelve, Italy ten, France nine, and The Netherlands five.

According to the report, the conception rate for girls under 16 was 9.3 per thousand in 1991, with the highest rate found in urban areas. In the UK's largest cities the figure rose to 13.3 per thousand.

Although the report *Population Trends* says the number of births outside marriage to women under 20 increased from 13.7 to 26 per thousand, it also found an increase in the number of births registered by parents the same address, from 13,000 in 1981 to 28,000 in 1991.

The study, published by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, showed

that the proportion of births outside marriage increased in 1991-92 by 1 percentage point to 31.2 per cent. Births outside marriage accounted for 84 per cent of all births to teenagers and almost half of births to women in their early twenties.

Last year, more than three quarters of all births outside marriage were jointly registered and almost three quarters of those were registered by men and women living at the same address and presumed to be cohabiting.

The highest proportion of births outside marriage was to women born in the Caribbean, although the figure had dropped from 50 per cent in 1982 to 46 per cent last year.

This compared with 9.4 per cent of births to women born in the East African Commonwealth outside marriage; rest of African Commonwealth 38 per cent; Pakistan and Bangladesh 1.1 per cent; India 2.6 per cent and UK 33.4 per cent.



Deckchair users enjoy a traditional Morecambe summer, but they are a declining breed and the hired chairs are likely to vanish

Regret as bottom falls out of deckchair trade

By BILL PROSS

A POTENT symbol of holiday tradition died in Morecambe Bay yesterday when tourist officials disclosed that nobody wanted to take on next summer's deckchair concession at the resort.

Offering condolences to the trippers who come to enjoy the sands with rolled-up trousers and heads protected by a knotted handkerchief,

the Lancashire town admitted that the deckchair trade was about to fold.

Trevor White, the tourist marketing officer, spoke wistfully of the glory days when the beach was packed with people trying to tackle the complex workings of the chairs. "It is very sad that a tradition has to end, but these days people don't want to spend all day on the beach anymore," he said.

Once 6,500 chairs a day were hired

to holidaymakers, he said. "As the years have gone by the number of deckchairs has waned. Most people come to Morecambe by car and bring their own chairs and windbreakers."

The local authority put the business out to private firms some years ago. However, the last operator had given up saying that he could not cover his costs.

Sid Thomas, a former Morecambe foreshore supervisor, recalled the

days when ranks of deckchairs covered the beach and the prom. The council had run a "hospital" for chairs broken by overweight or clumsy tourists. Supervisors were trained to tend people who had trapped their fingers while erecting the chairs.

"Having a deckchair was part of the traditional visit to the seaside. The death of the deckchair will be the end of an era," he said.

Message number two, Monday 10:35am 'Hello Phil, the meeting's changed...'

Message forward for Phil Munro

Memo, Monday 3:40pm, 'Call John to chase the fax...'

Message forward number 'Mercury... 0277 228888'

You have five messages

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Poisonous crayons and highly flammable cots discovered during trading standards investigation

Safety warning as dangerous toys hit Christmas market

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

THOUSANDS of dangerous toys have been sold as Christmas presents this year, trading standards officers said yesterday. Among them are illegal copies of puppets of the BBC television character Mr Blobby, which have detachable eyes that could be pulled off and swallowed by small children.

Many of the 100,000 dangerous and illegal toys are made in China and the Far East. Some include poisonous materials, such as lead, or are highly flammable.

The "CE" mark — a self-declaration of safety standards on toys — is no protection, parents have been warned. Trading standards officers in Liverpool, who conducted a two-month investigation, found that most dangerous toys bore the symbol.

Although many have been seized or removed from shelves, thousands are believed to have already been

sold. Peter Mawdsley, the city's head of trading standards, said: "A small minority of importers are still carrying out inadequate safety testing. As a result, potentially lethal toys are getting on to the market."

He advised parents to buy quality toys from reputable traders, examine purchases for obvious faults, keep toys with age warnings away from younger children and if in doubt seek advice from trading standards officers.

Eileen Devaney, Liverpool council's consumer protection chairman, said: "We don't wait for a tragedy to happen, then react. Parents must be warned of the problem now. The presence of unsafe toys on the market shows that some makers and importers are still putting their profits before safety. But you cannot put a price on a young child's life."

The dangerous toys include:
□ Unofficial Mr Blobby puppets: origin unknown. Dozens were seized from a house in Derby. Derbyshire county council warned parents to be particularly vigilant at car boot sales.

□ Pack of 10 Jumbo Crayons: made in China by Fantasy. They contain excessive amounts of lead, a carcinogen associated with mental retardation in children. The yellow crayon has six times the safety limit and the light green three times the legal dose.

□ Bronto Baby: a Super Toys soft baby dinosaur, made in China. Easily detached plastic eyes could choke a child.

□ Happy Clowns and Circus

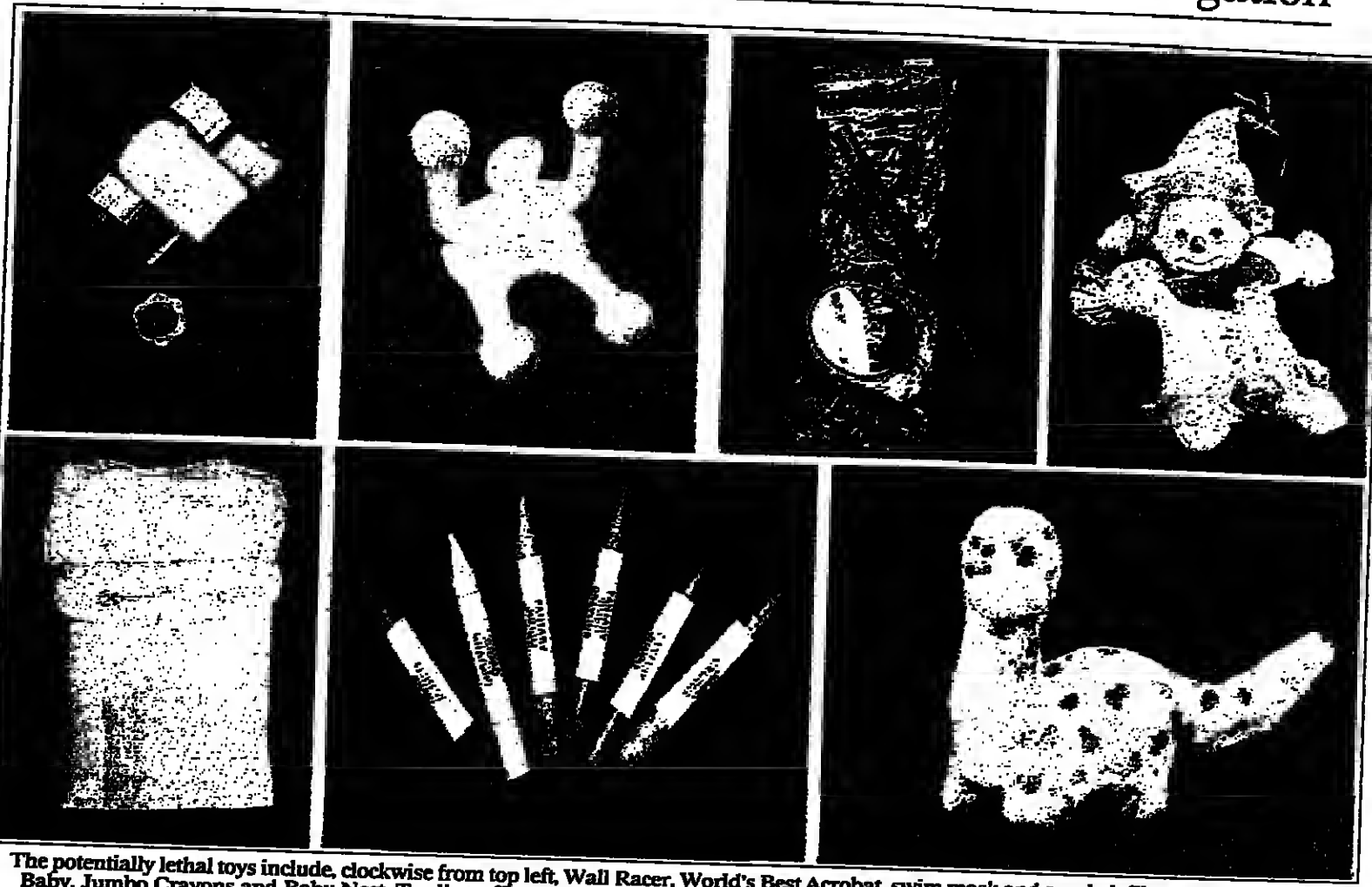
Clowns: made in China. Fibre in the clowns' hats could choke children.

□ Baby Nest: the pink two-foot toy, made in the Britain, is highly flammable.

□ Wall Racer/Car Vertical Racer: the toy cars with sticky, jelly-like tyres made in the Far East are designed to run down walls. The easily detachable wheels and tyres resemble sweets and could choke a child.

□ World's Best Acrobat: the plastic figure that somersaults down a wall was made in the Far East. Sticky, jelly-like balls on the end of each limb are easily detached and could choke a child.

□ Swim mask and snorkel: made in China, it has no safety warnings to make clear that the equipment is for use only in shallow water and under adult supervision.



The potentially lethal toys include, clockwise from top left, Wall Racer, World's Best Acrobat, swim mask and snorkel, Circus Clown, Bronto Baby, Jumbo Crayons and Baby Nest. Trading officers say that many of the dangerous toys carry safety markings from manufacturers



Mawdsley: "importers not doing safety test"

Judge attacks 'filthy' young offender unit

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

INMATES in a much-criticised young offenders' centre spend too much time in their cells and live in unsatisfactory conditions where bullying remains at high levels, according to a report published today.

Judge Stephen Tumim, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, says that unless there are moves to improve Feltham Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre, where four inmates committed suicide in seven months, its future is bleak.

Judge Tumim says that the overall impression of the centre in west London is that it is not governable because it holds hundreds of convicted and unconvicted youths from as far away as Liverpool and Cornwall. The report says it is the dirtiest young offenders' institution in the country.

Judge Tumim says that

providing some remand prisoners with only one pair of underpants and socks a week falls far short of satisfactory standards.

He criticises the state of cells, which were found to be in need of decoration, covered in graffiti and contained damaged furniture. "Some of the toilets were filthy and foul smelling and some bathing areas were not maintained to appropriate standards," the report says.

A distressed juvenile was found in one cell, where he had been for many hours. The report says: "Many inmates spent too much time in cells which were barren of furniture and devoid of stimulation on first arrival. The attitudes of some staff seemed to be offhand."

HM Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre, Feltham (Home Office)

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

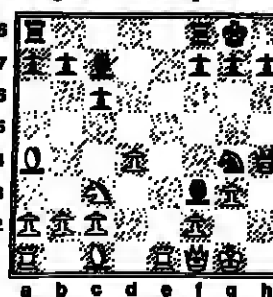
Turkish delight

I have been flooded with games by *The Times* readers from around the world since the end of the world championship. For example, I have received a selection of imaginative, sacrificial games from *The Times* readers in Turkey.

The following is typical. Black sacrifices a piece on move 8, banking on 9 exd6 Re8+ 10 Kf1 Qxh6 with tremendous compensation for the sacrificed piece. White declines the material but still comes under a heavy attack.

White: Halil Basoren
Black: Yakup Bayram
Turkish Championship, Istanbul 1993

Diagram of final position



Readers' games

Readers are invited to continue submitting their own games for possible publication in this column.

Games should be sent to me, c/o Keene on Chess, *The Times*, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9KN.

Miles about

Tony Miles of England scored a fine win in the international tournament in Crete, finishing with 8 points out of 9, a point ahead of Smagin (Russia), Sturua (Georgia) and Drasko (former Yugoslavia) who scored 7 points.

Hungarian championship

Andras Adorjan ran out the winner of this year's Hungarian championship with a score of 7.5 out of 11, ahead of Grosspeter and Alamas, who both scored 6.5.

Winning Move, page 48

Four Knights Opening

1 e4	e5
2 Nf3	Nf6
3 Nc3	Nd4
4 Bb5	Bc5
5 Bb4	O-O
6 Nxe5	Bb6
7 Nd3	c5
8 e5	Ne8
9 O-O	O-O
10 Kf1	d6
11 exd6	Qh4
12 d7	Bxd7
13 Ne5	Bb6
14 Nf3	Nd3
15 Qxd3	Bc7
16 g3	Qh3
17 Kf1	Qh4
18 Qd2	Qh3
19 Re1	Nf6
20 Qf4	Ng4
21 Q4	Qh4
22 h4	

White resigns

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Today's artificial Christmas trees are superbly stylish - and you can see the pick of the crop at Texas now. In heights from 2ft to 7ft, we have a wide range of options, all designed to give years of trouble-free Christmas cheer. We also have handy sets with tree, matching decorations AND lights in the one super-value package.

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6ft Decorated Tree.....	£39.99
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Defeated opponents of Sunday trade turn their attention to workers' rights

Archbishop warns of 'risk to health'

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND BILL FROST

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, yesterday voiced "deep concern" over the long-term effects of the decision to allow almost unlimited Sunday shopping. Dr Carey reacted to Wednesday night's vote by MPs by warning the Government that lifting trading restrictions could seriously damage the country's physical and spiritual health.

MPs voted by a majority of 75 to allow widespread trading, but only after an attempt to keep tight restrictions on seven-day opening failed by just 18 votes.

The Archbishop rallied defeated campaigners by saying that he was impressed by the consensus among MPs that Sunday should remain a special day and their rejection of plans to allow totally unlimited Sunday trading. "It is important that the end result should not turn out to be virtually complete deregulation by another name."

Defeated campaigners and MPs vowed yesterday to continue their fight to protect shop staff who do not want to work on Sundays. Although Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has said that workers will have the right to refuse to work on Sundays, campaign

groups, Labour MPs and lawyers claimed that the protection would prove unworkable.

Employee protection will now become the central topic of the Sunday Trading Bill's remaining stages in the Commons. The Government remained nervous about the issue yesterday, recognising that a large number of the 85 Labour MPs who supported general trading did so on the basis that better protection would be added to the bill at a later stage.

While senior ministers celebrated victory in the main political battle, they are wary about losing ground in the potentially hazardous skirmishes to come on employment issues. Although John Major welcomed Wednesday's decision, Downing Street attempted to dampen the reaction of the victorious campaigners, saying "obviously it is not settled yet".

Paul Boateng, Labour's legal affairs spokesman, said the party would press for further assurances to protect shop staff. "If the Government wants this bill to go through, it will have to offer proper protection, not the unworkable concessions offered to date."

Ray Powell, the veteran

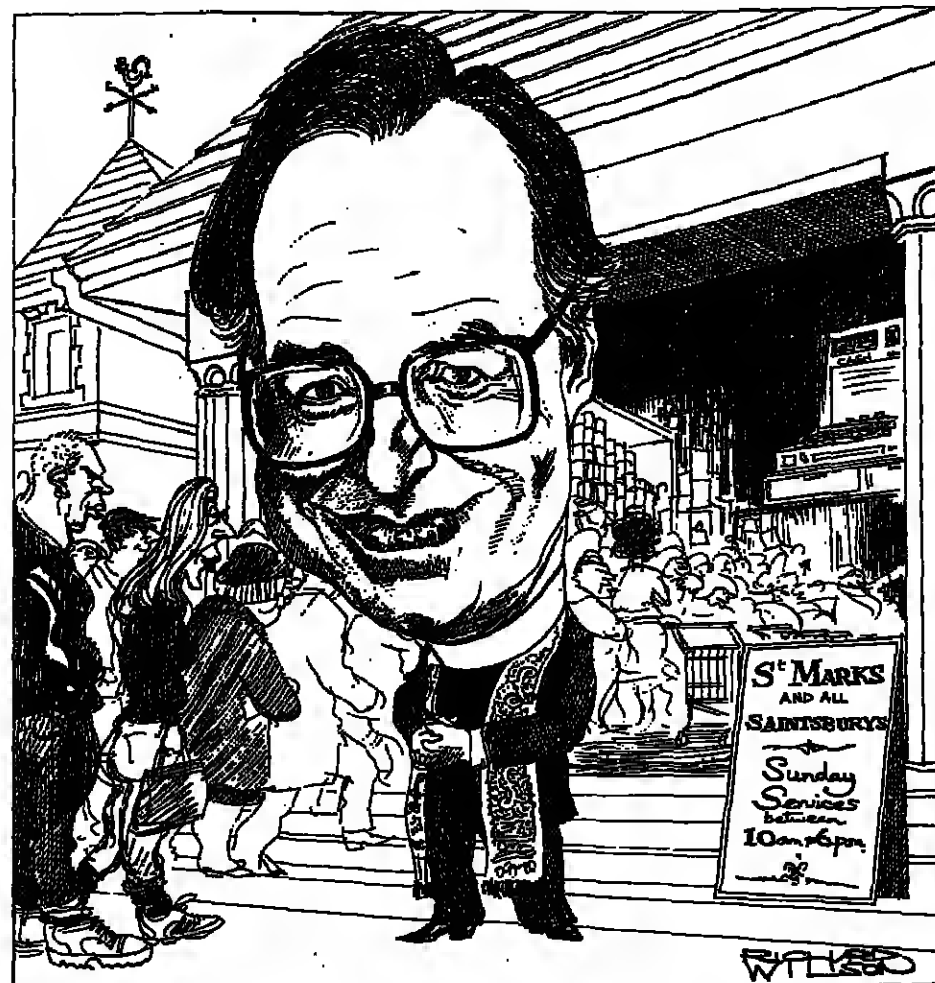
Labour MP who led the campaign to restrict Sunday trading, said: "Yesterday, we will have to look at the possibility of amending this bill and try to save some of our communities from what could be disaster."

Two of the largest retail chains to have opposed deregulation of Sunday trading signalled yesterday that they are to change their policy in the face of market forces. However, the John Lewis Partnership and Marks & Spencer said there was no question of cashing in on the pre-Christmas rush.

The John Lewis Partnership, which owns the Waitrose chain of supermarkets, said: "It will be some time before the new law comes into effect and we will be ready with a competitive response." Waitrose has been down an estimated £1 million a week in lost sales, having decided against opening on Sundays.

Marks & Spencer said that the company would be opening stores on Sunday as soon as the bill became law. "We will opt for city centre and edge-of-town sites. We have been forced into it, we cannot buck market forces," a spokeswoman said.

David Quarumby, Sainsbury's joint managing director,



Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, helps to open the door for shoppers

tor, doubted that the vote signalled the end of the traditional Sunday. The shops that would take advantage would be out-of-town stores already opening in defiance of the law. Labour emphasised yesterday that during the bill's

passage the party would press for double-time pay for Sunday working. Ushaw, the shopworkers' union, has given the vote a broad welcome. The Association of Chief Police Officers said the decision to ease regulation of

Sunday shopping could mean meters, yellow lines and traffic wardens in operation on Sundays. If normal trading became common in town centres, usual weekday parking restrictions would probably have to be imposed.

Jittery MPs head for familiar cover after a free vote

MPs had an unusual experience on Wednesday evening. They had to make up their own minds without the guidance of the whips. That was uncomfortable for some who will have to explain their votes to various Church, shopkeeper, shopworker and other groups which have been lobbying them intensively.

That makes the division lists worth reading for once. They are normally predictable see how Richard Ryder and Derek Foster, the two Chief Whips, have voted and the rest follows, apart from a few well-known mavericks. This is why the Maastricht revolts by two dozen Tory MPs were so exceptional.

This practice often produces complaints about tyrannical whips forcing MPs to toe the party line. That is usually nonsense. Most MPs are happy to follow the lead of their whips. Few MPs apart from know-all have considered every issue in detail. They are happy to be told what to do and, in some cases, say.

For most MPs being a loyal member of their party is why they are in politics and in the Commons. They do not want to provide convenient cover. MPs can blame the whips when they have to make controversial votes. That is why persistent rebels like Nicholas Winterton are unpopular with many colleagues. They are seen as self-righteously indulging their consciences.

Without the cohesion of party, and the whipping system, there would be a danger of anarchy, as Walter Bagehot recognised even in the more fluid parliamentary days of the 1860s. That is inherent in the American Congress where members of the House of Representatives, facing reelection every two years, are accountable more to their constituents than their party whips. For instance, last month, Democrat members of the House looked for reassurance from President Clinton over the NAFTA trade treaty

which was strongly opposed by the unions and other party groups. Cover was vital.

In the case of the Sunday Trading Bill, cover was provided by outside interests, in particular by Ushaw, the shopworkers' union. In April 1986, no Labour MPs voted for deregulation. Although the Tories then had a majority of 140, the bill was defeated by 14 since 68 Tory MPs voted against. There are now 60 fewer Tory MPs, and 60 more Labour members, than in 1986, but the proposal for partial deregulation was approved by 333 votes to 258.

The pro camp included 85 Labour MPs, led by John Smith and 13 other members of the shadow Cabinet. (While less than a third of all Labour MPs supported the change,

more than two-fifths of the party's members from Scotland, where there is already deregulation, did)

This has led to some Labour recommitments, with hard-left MPs accusing the leadership of failing to exploit Tory divisions. But the MPs supporting partial deregulation pointed to the shift by Ushaw in favour of the compromise option.

On the Tory side, the emergence of the compromise was also decisive. Only just over a half of Tory MPs, including Michael Howard, the home secretary, voted for complete deregulation. But the number of Tories supporting change rose by 70 to 241 on the successful option. That enabled MPs to say they had balanced calls for deregulation and tidying up current anomalies with the continuation of some restrictions. Twelve Tories who voted against the 1986 bill shifted to back the compromise.

The long battle of attrition over Sunday trading has now been decided, with MPs having moved to positions they feel able to defend without the protection of the whips. But most would rather it did not happen too often.

PETER RIDDELL

Weekend shopping

Wind hits fish price

STRONG winds have disrupted many fish supplies, and some prices have risen accordingly. Look among the oil-rich species and shellfish for this week's bargains.

The cost of Christmas trees varies considerably, so the following prices are only a rough guide: Nordmann fir: £2.70-£4 a foot; Scotch pine, £1.20-£3 a foot; Norwegian spruce, £1.20-£2.50 a foot.

Advertised best buys include:

Asda: fresh pork rolled shoulder, 99p a lb; Brussels pate, £1.56 a lb.

Co-op: British roasting beef (rolled blade), £1.79 a lb; brussels sprouts, 59p for 2lb.

Galeway: rump steak, £2.78 a lb; Somerset frozen medium prawns, £2.39 for 400g pack.

Harrods: German green peppered salami, £3 a lb; Australian mangoes, £3 a lb.

Island: leg of lamb, £1.89 a lb; 250g whole cooked lobster, £2.99.

Marks & Spencer: pork loin with glaze, £5.99 each; Cox's apples, 99p for 3lb punnet.

Safeway: Wiltshire ham cured

on the bone, £2.76 a lb; clementines, £1.25 for 1.4kg pack.

Sainsbury's: prime sirloin steak, £4.28 a lb; whole rainbow trout, £1.88 a lb; Conference pears (loose), 32p a lb.

Tesco: lean braising steak, £2.66 a lb; whole prawns, £1.99 a lb; cauliflower, 79p.

Waitrose: stuffed lamb shoulder, £1.49 a lb; cooked crevettes, £5.95 a lb; Wilja potatoes, 49p for 2.5kg pack.

Wine and beer: Among the best offers are:

Safeway: Bulgarian Cabernet Sauvignon red, £1.99.

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Sainsbury's: Sainsbury's extra-dry champagne, £9.95.

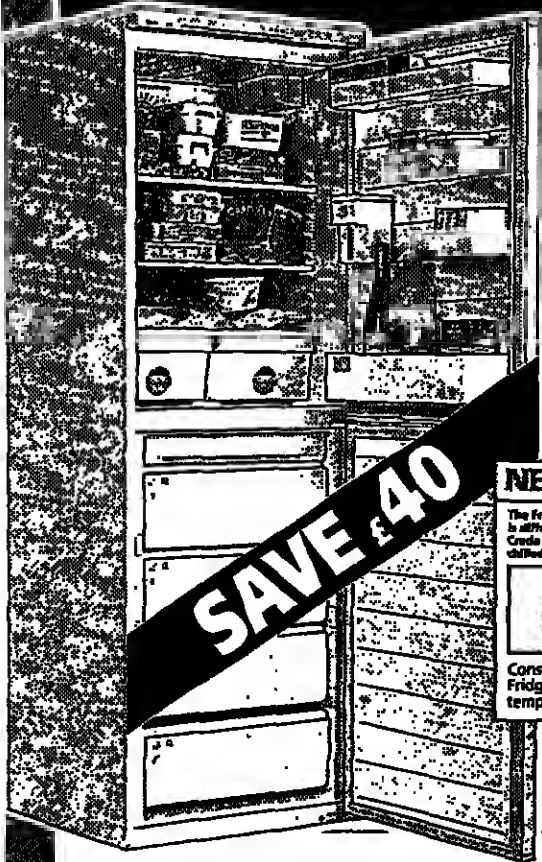
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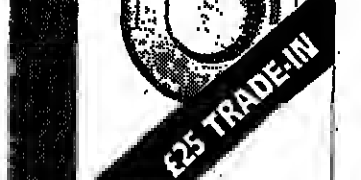
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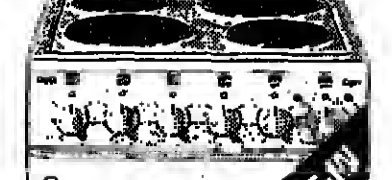
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Reform of councils could add £60 to average poll tax

BY ALICE THOMSON, POLITICAL REPORTER

COUNCIL tax bills for the average family could rise by £60 in the run-up to the next general election because of the Government's bitterly disputed plans to restructure local government.

John Major is now facing a head-on collision with the Local Government Commission, many backbench MPs and businesses who oppose Government plans to abolish shire counties and to amalgamate districts into unitary authorities where possible, to replace the existing two-tier structure in England.

The independent Local Government Commission, which was set up to study the biggest reform of local government for more than 20 years, will today publish a report which will opt for a far more pragmatic approach than the Government's blueprint. Its latest report recommends treating each area independently, having unitary authorities in cities and some counties and improving the old two-tier system in some rural areas.

Sir John Banham, the commission's chairman, admitted in an interview with *The Times* that the review had become a poison chalice. "Many MPs and ministers never want to hear about it

again. They say that, like the poll tax, it is an accident waiting to happen. Voters will rebel against the expense and will not want to be forced into losing their old counties."

The cost of the reform has been estimated at up to £1.1 billion and could put £45 to £60 on each council tax bill in 1995 or 1996. Sir John hopes to recoup the cost in two years. But David Curry, the environment minister, who is now handling the review and favours predominantly one-tier authorities, has told the commission that it is not precluded from recommending an option marginally more expensive than the status quo.

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, realising that his predecessor Michael Heseltine's big idea might have gone sour, recently went back to the drawing board. But Mr Major has refused to let him scale down the proposals and has speeded up the process for completion next year.

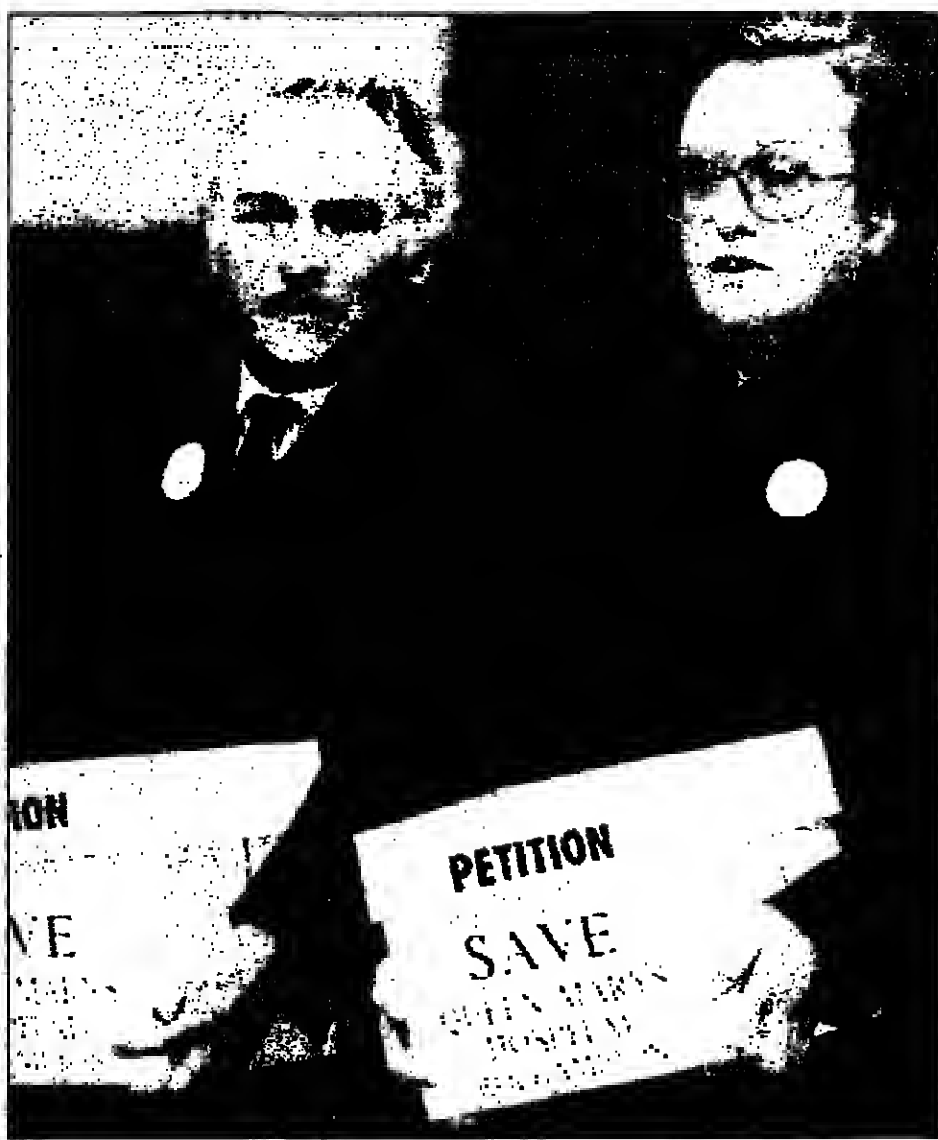
Sir John believes that local government restructuring is necessary but that the Government approach is wrong and that, unlike the commission, which has already interviewed 25,000 residents, the Government has not taken local

people's views into account.

According to Sir John two-thirds of local people so far have said they would like to see the existing two-tier system replaced by unitary local government, especially if it would mean cost-cutting in the end. But in certain areas county ties are so strong that it would be unwise for the Government to tamper with them.

"People in London will say our approach is very messy but we have now come to the conclusion that it would be very dangerous to alter counties like Yorkshire and Co Durham, while Cambridgeshire is an obvious county to split up," he said.

Sir John says he will not be swayed by "the army of arm-twisting and axe-grinding special pleaders", the local councils and districts which are fighting among themselves to take over local power. "It worries me that hard-up councils and districts are spending vast amounts trying to convince us of their cause. Their presentation will make no difference," he said.



The actor Dinsdale Landon, left, and MP David Mellor delivering a petition to Downing Street against the closure of Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton

Tories accused of cowardice on bills

By ROBERT MORGAN AND JILL SHERMAN

A ROW erupted in the Commons yesterday over Government plans to rush through legislation to raise workers' national insurance contributions and to cut state support for sick pay.

Margaret Beckett, Labour's deputy leader, said that the decision to cut short debate on the two bills next week were the "worst examples of incoherence" and a demonstration of the Government's "contempt for the democratic process".

In an unusual move the Government has decided to guillotine bills covering two of the most controversial measures announced in this year's two Budgets to ensure that both can be implemented from next April. The two bills will now be given only one day each to be debated in the Commons next week. The move betrays the Government's own fears that the Budget has already had its honeymoon period and will soon begin to unravel.

Standing in for John Smith, the party leader, who was in Brussels, Mrs Beckett said at Prime Minister's question time that the Government was running away from a debate on the issues. The two bills exposed the hypocrisy of the Government's claims to be cutting the burdens on indus-

try, she said. However Tony Newton, the leader of the House, deputising for John Major, who was also in Brussels, said that the two measures would reduce the costs of British industry.

The Statutory Sick Pay Bill abolishes all state reimbursement now given to employers for statutory sick pay, although small firms will be protected. Until now companies have had an 80 per cent reimbursement. The Social Security Contributions Bill includes measures to increase the rate of national insurance contributions by 1 per cent.

Mrs Beckett said the Government stood convicted of deceit and incompetence and now cowardice was added to the charges.

Tory business managers later explained that the two bills had to be rushed through in order to ensure that secondary legislation, related to the bills, could also be passed by next April. In addition employers had to have enough notice to be able to change their computer software so that the measures could be introduced in time. The business managers also admitted that, having taken soundings, it was clear that the bills would not get through in time, unless debate was shortened.

Ministers submit bids for new bills

By JONATHAN PYNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

CABINET ministers are already submitting their bids for legislation in next year's Queen's Speech, only three weeks after the current session's programme was unveiled to Parliament.

The Government has brought forward by months the annual timetable for planning its package of legislative proposals to allow more time for consideration and co-ordination of competing claims from Government departments. It will also give parliamentary draftsmen more time to put bills together.

This week Tony Newton, the Leader of the Commons, compared the process of drawing together the Queen Speech's measures to the non-stop painting of the Forth Bridge. He was speaking at a conference on "The Coming Year in Parliament".

The Cabinet committee responsible for deciding which proposals will go forward next year as legislation will consider the outline of the package "early in the new year". The Cabinet gave provisional approval to last November's Queen's Speech measures in May, earlier than usual. The process now appears to have been brought even further forward.

Peers were angered earlier this year when the Railways Bill was the subject of hundreds of government amendments during its Lords "ages" to tidy up drafting and practical flaws in the wording of the legislation.

Mr Newton also said he was in favour of publishing draft legislation in future to allow interested parties to examine the detail of proposals before they are introduced to Parliament.



Newton: allowing more time for legislation

Health managers 'wasted £20m'

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than £20 million was wasted by health managers through a catalogue of "grave shortcomings, mismanagement, conflicts of interests and concealment of vital information", MPs reported yesterday.

A 240-page cross-party report chronicles a tale of money squandered on a computer system which had to be abandoned by Wessex Regional Health Authority.

A combination of weak management and a lack of financial control led to the waste of money which "should have been spent on health care for sick people", said the detailed report by the Commons Public Accounts Committee.

The regional information systems plan, started in 1984, was intended to provide more detailed information to help to improve clinical and other health services. By April 1990, when the plan was abandoned, more than £43 million had been spent on a system aimed at improving efficiency.

The MPs' report says: "We consider it a matter of grave concern that, by the management executive's own admission, at least £20 million was wasted."

"It is unacceptable, too, that although a series of auditors' reports were presented to the management executive and the Secretary of State between February 1987 and August 1989 [John Kenneth Clarke] 1989 [John Kenneth Clarke] what had gone wrong in the implementation of the project, it was not abandoned by the authority until 1990."

The report says that John Moore, the former regional general manager, "carried the main responsibility for what went wrong. The evidence presented to us depicted Mr Moore as a man with a strong vision and such a determination not to be deflected off course that he presided over a series of actions incompatible with the proper handling of public money and without regard to clear evidence that the project was going badly wrong."

Brian Mawhinney, the Health Minister, accepted yesterday that controls at the early stages of the information systems plan were "inadequate but much has changed since then".

The week in Parliament

The main business in Parliament in the next week is expected to be:

House of Commons

Today: Debate on private members' motion on business and industry.
Monday: Debates on peacekeeping operations and on the aerospace industry.
Tuesday: Timetable motions on Social Security (Contributions) Bill and Statutory Sick Pay Bill.
Wednesday: Proceedings on the Statutory Sick Pay Bill.

Thursday: Proceedings on the Social Security (Contributions) Bill.
Friday: Christmas recess debates.

House of Lords

Monday: Debates on European Community development aid and on London hospitals.
Tuesday: Local Government (Wales) Bill, second reading.
Wednesday: Debate on the Falklands Investigation.
Thursday: Dog Control and Welfare Bill, second reading.
Friday: Debate on design of banknotes and coins.

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Assad's peace overture wins meeting with Clinton as Israel prepares partial withdrawal

Christopher lures Syria and Lebanon back to talks

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN AMMAN
AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

WARREN Christopher, the American Secretary of State, yesterday claimed a breakthrough in the Middle East peace process when he succeeded in enticing Syria and Lebanon back to the negotiating table with Israel.

Speaking in Damascus, the American envoy added that President Clinton will meet President Assad of Syria in Geneva next month, in what was regarded as a reward to the Syrian leader for agreeing to resume dialogue with the Israelis.

"With a resumption of negotiations in January, I believe that genuine progress can also be made on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks," Mr Christopher said. He described the mini-summit as "a vital cornerstone in our efforts to build a comprehensive, just and lasting peace".

According to Mr Christopher, the heads of the Israeli and Syrian delegations will meet in Washington in the first week of next month, the Geneva summit will take

place in mid-January, and full talks will then resume by the beginning of February.

The move was seen as the latest softening of Syria's position towards Israel, after Damascus unilaterally offered to help locate seven Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon and agreed to let hundreds of Syrian Jews emigrate by the end of this month. In return, America eased its economic sanctions against Damascus and allowed Syria to acquire three ageing passenger planes from Kuwait. Nevertheless, there were still lingering doubts about the depth of the change of heart in Damascus and whether it would make any real difference on the ground.

Although bringing Syria back to the negotiating table might help improve the atmosphere in the region, it is not clear that Damascus will be in a generous mood when it resumes talks with Israel. The two sides have failed to make any headway in their negotiations for a land for peace



Relatives and friends of Khamis Abu Awad, 52, an Arab farmer who was shot dead yesterday by an Israeli settler, mourning at his home in Turmus Ayya, in the occupied West Bank. Escalating violence in Israel and the occupied territories threatens to derail the peace process

Arab farmer killed by settlers

FROM BEN LYNFIELD IN JERUSALEM

AN ESCALATION of violence continued in the occupied territories yesterday as Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, and Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, met in Spain in an attempt to push forward implementation of

the Israeli-Palestinian peace deal. Near the West Bank town of Ramallah, Jewish settlers shot dead an Arab farmer after he refused to leave a field he was working, Arab witnesses said. Police arrested a resident of the northern West Bank Shiloh settlement in connection with the killing, Israel radio reported.

In the Gaza Strip, two Arabs stabbed and lightly wounded an Israeli woman at the Katif Jewish settlement, settlers said. Shops were shuttered throughout the occupied territories in a general strike to mark the sixth anniversary of the intifada.

In Granada, Spain, Mr Peres said both sides were intent on starting implemen-

tation of the peace agreement on Monday. "We don't want to leave the door open to those who want to destroy the peace process," he said at the start of a United Nations conference on Middle East peace.

Negotiators from the two sides remain far apart over the extent of Israeli army withdrawal in the Gaza Strip and town of Jericho, prisoner releases, and control of border crossings. Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Mr Arafat are due to meet in Cairo on Sunday to try to iron out differences. Palestinian diplomats said.

Hardliners on both sides have stepped up violence leaving 35 Palestinians and 18 Israelis dead since the peace agreement on September 13.

Generals meet on frontier bridge

BY RICHARD BEESTON
AT THE ALLENBY BRIDGE
AND BEN LYNFIELD

ISRAELI and Palestinian military officers yesterday made a last-ditch attempt to reach an agreement on the start of a withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories.

In an unscheduled meeting, witnessed by a Times correspondent, several senior Palestinian officers in uniform crossed over the Jordan river into the West Bank where they were met by Israeli commanders, including Major General Danny Rothchild, the head of the Israeli civil administration.

In Tel Aviv last night, the Defence Ministry said that no Palestinian officers had crossed the bridge into the West Bank. Major General Rothchild "has not left his office all day".

The historic event was the first formal encounter by military officers from the two sides since they fought over the area in 1967. Although the officers greeted each other in a genial manner, the erstwhile enemies were nevertheless accompanied by two UN military observers, one an American, the other French.

The Palestinians were driven off in a heavily guarded convoy of Israeli military vehicles for a curfew of the West Bank, which was expected to focus on the town of Jericho. The town is supposed to be handed over to Palestinian authorities on Monday. Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, are meeting in Cairo on Sunday.

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'Gun violence is tearing the heart out of our country'

Clinton declares all-out war on firearms lobby

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

WITH America horrified by the massacre on Tuesday on a New York commuter train, President Clinton yesterday launched a drive for tough new gun controls that appears to enjoy overwhelming public support.

Breaking sharply with Presidents Reagan and Bush, who generally supported the gun lobby, Mr Clinton said that it was time to stand up to the National Rifle Association and "consider a lot of things we have not in the past" to confront the violence that is "tearing the heart out of our country".

He ordered the Justice Department to study a range of radical restrictions, including a national gun licensing system. He also met 35 big-city mayors and police chiefs to hear what he called a "cry for help from the front lines".

Jerry Abramson, mayor of Louisville, said: "People in our cities are demanding action." He and his colleagues presented Mr Clinton with a report demanding immediate action on a comprehensive gun control package. Ruben Ortega, Salt Lake City's police chief, said that "distress to the system had reached the level of utter dismay and fear".

Handgun Control, the pressure group that last month enjoyed a big symbolic victory by winning congressional

A crackdown on gun sales and owners and stop-and-search powers for police are planned. With 200 million weapons in circulation, it will have no immediate impact



Freesh: demanded ban on assault weapons

approval of the so-called Brady Bill, unveiled a far more radical package of restrictions that will be presented to Congress when it reconvenes next month.

Louis Freesh, the FBI director, for the first time demanded a ban on assault weapons, saying they served only "to provide a source of strength and power to America's criminal elements". The American Medical Association, meeting in New Orleans, issued a sweeping statement calling for new restrictions on gun sales and ownership. A Los Angeles

Times poll showed a remarkable 64 per cent of Americans favoured tougher gun laws — proof of Mr Clinton's contention that there has been a "sea change in public attitude" towards firearms.

Calling Tuesday's massacre a "terrible human tragedy", the President said he was "convinced that most Americans now understand how profoundly important these crime and violence issues are, and how it is time to face them".

Responding to suggestions from the mayors of New York and Los Angeles, Mr Clinton has asked Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, to study the idea of a national handgun registration, licensing and training system even though the association insists that would violate the constitutional right to bear arms. He said he was open to a host of new ideas such as banning ammunition clips carrying 15 bullets similar to the one used in Tuesday's shooting, strengthened police powers to stop and search anyone suspected of carrying guns and amnesties for illegal gun owners.

The Brady Bill imposed a

modest five-day waiting period for handgun purchases, but having shattered the myth of the association's invincibility, Handgun Control is demanding the licensing of gun owners, a ban on automatic and semi-automatic weapons, hefty new taxes on guns and ammunition and the right of victims to sue gun dealers.

Citing the New York massacre, Charles Schumer, the New York Democrat who will introduce the legislation, challenged the association: "Don't you dare tell me that we don't need any more laws."

Even the most stringent new measures would have little immediate impact on violent crime in America, however, as there are more than 200 million guns in circulation.

Water risks America's capital, already besieged by guns, drugs and urban blight, suffered a new indignity when a million people were warned that the water was undrinkable (see Brodie writes).

Residents and workers in Washington and suburbs in Virginia near by reacted with alarm to the emergency alert that heavy rains had overwhelmed the filtration system and that all water should be boiled. Officials said particles suspended in the water were making it cloudy and were a sign that the supply might be contaminated by a parasite that can cause serious intestinal illness. Queues for bottled water built up.



Chelsea Clinton at a dress rehearsal for the Washington Ballet production of *The Nutcracker*, in which she has the role of the Favourite Aunt. The President's daughter is making her first ballet appearance since moving to the White House

Boost for Nasa in Hubble triumph

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

THE five space walks to repair the Hubble space telescope and Nasa's flagging reputation ended yesterday with the triumphal unfurling of the craft's huge solar arrays.

Astronauts plan to release the space observatory, designed to peer to the edges of the Universe, early this morning.

Story Musgrave and Jeff Hoffman made the mission's longest space walk of seven hours and 21 minutes, working to unravel the 40ft panels which turn sunlight into electricity to power Hubble. Motors, which should have helped unwind the two arrays like window blinds, failed and the two astronauts were forced to tug them open before they dropped slowly into place.

The mission, which has gone so well that ground controllers plan to bring back Endeavour a day early on Sunday, has set several records, including the record number of American space walks. No previous Nasa mission had involved more than four space walks.

Nasa spent \$629 million (£422 million) on the repair mission, the first of several planned service calls for Hubble.

Jacksons renew family feuding

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

ONE of the world's most public dysfunctional families put on a fresh display of public feuding this week when LaToya Jackson accused her brother, pop star Michael Jackson, of child molestation, and the rest of the Jackson clan accused her of lying.

Police in Los Angeles are investigating allegations that Michael Jackson sexually abused a 13-year-old boy and at a midnight press conference in Tel Aviv on Wednesday his estranged sister proclaimed that the charges were true.



LaToya Jackson: accused Michael of child abuse

"I cannot and will not be a silent collaborator of his crimes against small children," said LaToya, who is in Israel on a private visit. "I just think Michael needs help," she added.

Later, in a television interview, she added that her mother often accused Michael of being "a damned faggot" and that the family made payments to parents of young boys who stayed with him.

Michael Jackson, 35, is currently being treated for his addiction to pain-killers.

The Jackson family immediately denied LaToya's statements. "I'll tell her to her face that she's lying," said her mother, Katherine Jackson, adding that her son was not trying to evade prosecution and would eventually return to America.

The family claims that LaToya has been brainwashed by Jack Gordon, her husband and manager. LaToya and Mr Gordon, in turn, insist that other members of the family are supporting Michael because they fear being cut off from his fortune.

\$1m added to Sommer winnings

FROM REUTER
IN LOS ANGELES

A JURY has awarded Elke Sommer, the German-born actress, another \$1.3 million (£866 million) in damages to go with the \$2 million she was granted earlier in her libel suit against Zsa Zsa Gabor and her husband.

Gabor, accused of telling a German magazine in 1990 that Sommer was broke, balding and frequented sleazy bars, angrily declared: "I'd rather see her starve before I give her one single dollar". Gabor, no stranger to legal troubles after she was convicted several years ago for slapping a Beverly Hills police officer, said she would move to England if one more case went against her.

Sommer, 53, testified that remarks by Gabor and her husband, Frederick von Anhalt, libelled her and caused her to suffer sleepless nights, headaches and nausea. In the latest ruling on Wednesday, jurors added punitive damages of \$450,000 from the Hungarian-born former beauty queen and \$850,000 from her husband.

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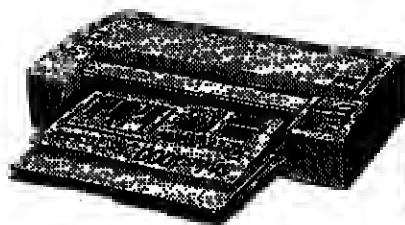
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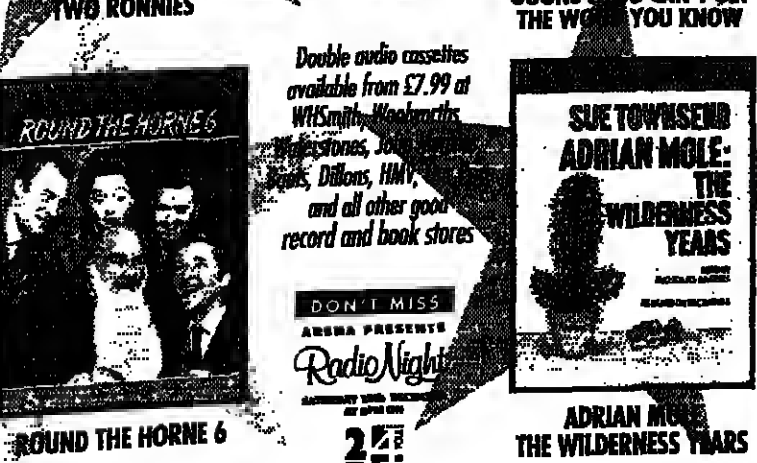


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THIS CHRISTMAS

Zulu police face enquiry on anti-ANC death squads

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN CAPE TOWN

SOUTH Africa's new ruling council served notice yesterday of its intention to tackle township policing.

The Transitional Executive Council, at its second meeting, demanded a series of reports on the activities of "hit squads" of the KwaZulu police. The council, in which blacks for the first time are given an executive role in government, also ordered a meeting with South African police officials to propose the withdrawal of the Internal Security Department's riot police from black townships east of Johannesburg and north of Durban.

A further resolution insisted

Natal believed that the riot police units were deliberately attacking them, and would rather have army units policing them.

None of the resolutions was opposed by Roelf Meyer, the Constitutional Development Minister and the government representative at the council meeting. Mr Meyer and Mr Ramaphosa were nominated as a council delegation to meet police officials over the withdrawal of the riot police.

In one more example of the new authority flexing its muscles, the council called on the government of Bophuthatswana to allow a celebration of Human Rights Day today on its territory.

The governments of the black homelands of KwaZulu and Bophuthatswana are both boycotting the council. Yesterday's resolutions mark the first steps towards a possible open breach between the new South Africa and the old apartheid structures.

Comeback is condemned

Johannesburg: The triumphant political comeback by Winnie Mandela, who has been elected president of the African National Congress's Women's League, was seen yesterday by the senior hierarchy of the ANC as a serious miscalculation (Ray Kennedy writes).

The ruling National Party said her election was "proof of the militant factions taking control of key positions in the ANC".

on adequate policing by the South African police, and not the KwaZulu police, of an area in northern Natal where African National Congress houses have been set on fire and members attacked. According to Cyril Ramaphosa, secretary-general of the ANC, KwaZulu police stood by and watched while his members' houses were burnt down.

Mr Ramaphosa also insisted that the residents of the townships on the East Rand and in the Bhambya area of



Somali National Alliance supporters loyal to General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the local warlord, marching in Mogadishu yesterday at a rally to mark the first anniversary of the arrival of US troops. Now the job of famine relief is over, the Americans are anxious to go home

Explosion of tribal violence claims 150,000 lives in a single week after failed coup

Burundi bloodshed turns Eden into Hades

FROM SAM KILEY IN MBUYE, CENTRAL BURUNDI

Gentle hills quilted deep red and green by cultivation stretch as far as the eye can see from Mbuye, a village in the heart of a country blessed with fertile soils and abundant rain. Until seven weeks ago it was an Eden, but after a wave of unparalleled ethnic violence, which pitted brother against brother, it has been turned into a Hades of burnt buildings and rotting bodies.

Anatole Mbanzi, 56, his wife, a nurse, four dysentery patients, and his three children are now the only people left in the village. The others fled or were murdered in an orgy of violence organised by his younger brother.

The brother, whom Mr Mbanzi refused to name, had been the principal of the local college. But on October 21 — when President Ndayize, Burundi's first democratically elected head of state and a member of the Hutu tribe, was killed three months after his election in a failed military coup led by Tutsis — the headmaster turned into the leader of a murderous

rampage. "The rule was kill Tutsis or be killed. I am married to a Tutsi woman and many of them are my friends and neighbours, so I did not join in the revenge of the President," said Mr Mbanzi, who was beaten unconscious and woke to find that he had been slashed across the stomach with machetes. "I was lucky, they thought I was dead," he said.

In the nearby refugee camp, Tutsis cover behind razor wire under the protection of the army because Hutus continue to loot and kill at night. David Ndikama, 45, who lived close to Mbuye, said that 36 members of his family, including his three children, had been killed in a few hours.

His wife, who was heavily pregnant, was disembowelled. "I don't understand what happened. These people were my friends, neighbours. We shared beer and food together," said Mr Ndikama. But Christophe Muhigira, programme co-ordinator for ActionAid, the British charity, who survived ten days of

killings in Ruyigi province on the Tanzanian border, accused the educated middle classes of inciting the violence.

"All over the country we could see the hidden hand of the civil servants, local businessmen, the educated people organising crowds of young people and ignorant peasants into killing mobs. The Hutu were told: 'They [the Tutsis] have killed the President. Kill them before they kill you.' So people were terrified and they did. Those who refused were also killed. Then the army came and took revenge," he said.

According to surviving members of the government, which has been paralysed by the bloodletting, at least 150,000 people were killed in one week in Burundi.

The United Nations estimates that more than 700,000 (a sixth of the population) have fled the country to neighbouring Tanzania, Zaire and Rwanda. A further 208,000 have been forced to move within the



country. Since independence from Belgium in 1962, Burundi and Rwanda have been regularly rocked by ethnic strife between the Hutu, who make up 80 per cent of the population of both countries, and the minority Tutsi who were promoted into an elite during the colonial administration. The last tribal massacres, in 1972, left 150,000 dead in Burundi.

The killings continue. Two days ago three soldiers in Kirundo province were killed by arrows in an attack by Hutu. Aid officials said that countless Hutu were killed in revenge. Elsewhere revenge killings of Hutu by the army

are reported every day. ActionAid described the horrors in Burundi as potentially as bad as Somalia and Angola. But calls for international intervention have been ignored since the débacle of the United Nations and American intervention in Somalia.

The Organisation of African Unity has set aside 180 troops for Burundi as observers, and the French have lent 15 gendarmes to protect the Burundi Cabinet members. Rome: Food production prospects in war-ravaged Angola have improved, but additional food donations will be needed next year, the UN said yesterday. The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) estimated that two million Angolans will need about 178,000 tonnes of food during the first six months of next year.

Children are dying of starvation in the besieged cities of Malange, Kuito, Menongue and also in Huambo, the report said. "But in areas spared by fighting, peasants who have seeds are planting. It is raining and the crops look good." (Reuters)

Ivorian rival for power bows out

FROM THALIA GRIFFITHS IN ABIDJAN

IVORY Coast's new leader, President Bedie, strengthened his hold on power on yesterday with the resignation of his rival, Alassane Ouattara, the Prime Minister.

Mr Ouattara's departure left the field open for Mr Bedie, the constitutional successor to President Houphouët-Boigny, who died on Monday aged 88. France, the former colonial power in the West African country, strongly backed Mr Bedie.

But premature statements from Paris on Tuesday referring to Mr Bedie as head of state angered many Ivorians and drew a tirade from the main opposition newspaper.

The President named an eight-member personal cabinet led by Yao Kouassi as Secretary-General of the presidency. Mr Bedie, the legal successor as parliamentary Speaker, did not wait for a formal handover presided over by the supreme court. He rushed to state television on Tuesday with a heavy guard of gendarmes and said he had taken over with immediate effect. His peremptory tone shocked ordinary Ivorians.

A claim on Wednesday, by sources close to Mr Ouattara, that army chiefs had declared their loyalty to the Prime Minister and his outgoing government was denied on Thursday. "The heads of the Ivorian armed forces support constitutional legality," Leon Konan Koffi, the Defence Minister, said.

Mr Ouattara's resignation had been expected since the death of Houphouët-Boigny, Africa's longest-serving leader, who named him Prime Minister in November 1990.

The head of Houphouët-Boigny's ruling Democratic Party (PDCI) indicated support for Mr Bedie on Wednesday in a television broadcast. Hospital workers and university teachers returned to work yesterday, calling off pay strikes as a mark of respect for the late President.

No date has been set for the funeral. (Reuters)

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Okaukuejo Camp is one of a handful of camps and game lodges within Namibia's Etosha National Park, a vast area of scrub and mopani woodland surrounding a great dry sea, the Etosha Pan. It is a dead flat, 80 mile expanse of sun-blasted mud and salt. In the January rains, the pan becomes a shallow lake providing drink and fodder for 2,500 elephants, countless antelopes, and their predators — lion, leopard and hyena. When the dry season starts in March, animals flock to water-holes and are easier to spot.

In one day's drive through Etosha we saw 60 or more elephants plus a pair of rhino, which cantered parallel to our vehicle at a galumphing 20 miles an hour. We watched giraffe amble past, lumbering wildebeest drink with unicorn-like onyx, and

compared a wart-hog, curly tusks bristling like moustaches, to Captain Mainwaring of Dad's Army. And we had seen so many smaller antelopes, springbok and impala that we were starting to get blasé.

Etosha is about six hours drive from the capital, Windhoek, through a landscape of thorn trees, low rocky hills and a blinding, cloudless sky. The road is as straight as a billiard cue from horizon to horizon.

Harsh though it is, the thorn scrubland is an Eden compared to the Namib Desert, a 1,000-mile stretch of razor-edged dunes and jagged valleys between the coast and the inland plateau. It is hard to believe that anything could live here but some plants survive on the merest hint of water: contorted quiver-trees, smears of lichen and the welwitschia plant, like mutant cabbage.

Seen from the Namib, the coast is an endless glowing band of pearly white fog, and the region's only town, Swakopmund, is perpetually soaked by it. The street names recall the glory days of Germany's short-lived African empire and every evening they play oompah music in the bar of the gloomily Teutonic Hansa Hotel.

There are other traces of Kaiser Wilhelm's era in Windhoek, where Herero women attend century-old Lutheran churches in full ankle-length skirts, multicoloured layers of shawls and elaborate turban-like headgear inspired by the garb of nineteenth century German missionary wives.

No settlers have made much of a mark on the empty badlands of southern Namibia, where the dunes of the southern Namib meet the great abyss of the Fish River Canyon. Only the Grand Canyon is longer and deeper than this 16km long, 550m deep chasm. But unlike the Grand Canyon, Fish River has no souvenir stalls, no lines of tour coaches, motor lodges or sightseeing aircraft buzzing overhead. It is still one of the great empty places of Africa.

ROBIN GAULDIE

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FISH RIVER CANYON: This 13-day tour is for those who wish to experience the more remote desert areas of Namibia. You see some of the great sights of the world only available in Namibia such as Fish River Canyon and the world's largest sand dunes at Sossivie Canyon. Departs 10 March, 1994, £1,007 (down from £1,279). Save £272

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BOTSWANAN EXPLORER: This 13-day tour has been put together to enable you to explore this country. A participation camping safari in the country's National Parks, Chobe, Moremi and the Okavango Delta, allows you to view African game. Departs 21, 29 March, 11, 19 April, £1,432 (down from £1,700). Save £268

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SOUTH AFRICAN PANORAMA: This 18-day tour covers the whole spectrum of South African opportunities. Travelling from the Eastern Transvaal and The Kruger National Park, continue through Zululand and Durban and then along the Garden Route and into Cape Town. Departs 7 May, 14 May, 11 June, 23 July, 13 August, 1994, £2,396 (down from £2,995). Save £599

CLASSIC KENYA: A nine-day safari in Kenya, which still provides some of the best game-viewing opportunities in the world. The trip takes guests to Samburu, Treetops, Lake Naivasha and the Masai Mara. Departs 4 January, 11 January, 18 January, 25 January, 1994, £2,396 (down from £2,995). Save £599

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Q: Do I have to take any specific insurance?
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Q: Are the operators bonded?
A: Yes, all the operators featured in this offer are bonded and have complied with the financial bonding requirements of the Civil Aviation Authority or the Passenger Shipping Association. This means that you will be repatriated/refunded in the unlikely event of the operators insolvency.

مكتبة من الأصل

North Korea defies Clinton as economic ills multiply

Strong American warnings to North Korea over its stubborn tactics on nuclear site inspections have heightened tensions in South Korea and stirred unease in Japan

BY DAVID WATTS IN LONDON AND JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

DESPITE a collapsing economy, North Korea signalled to America yesterday that there will be no further talks on access to its nuclear facilities unless its latest offer is accepted.

Telling Washington to approach the offer "prudently", President Kim Il Sung's regime said there would be no improvement on the offer to open a number of non-controversial nuclear sites because of the "low level of confidence" between the two countries. North Korea still refuses to open for inspection the key suspect site at Yongbyon.

In the perverse logic of the North — in which its belligerence increases with its desperation — the statement comes

The extent of the economic disaster became clear after a meeting of the central committee under President Kim. Removing Kim Dal Hyon, the key economic policy-maker, as State Planning Commission chairman, and the man who has been responsible for the cautious open-door policy, the gathering cast aside the usual pretence that all is well in the "people's paradise" and issued a blunt communiqué. Pyongyang claims economic growth rates averaging 5.6 per cent in recent years, but in reality it is believed the economy has shrunk for three years. The statement exposed the failure of huge sections of the economy, with industrial output sagging, power and steel production poor, and serious problems in farming.

The leadership ordered up to three years of economic readjustment during which priority must be given to boosting agriculture, light industry and foreign trade. "This has not only caused serious damage to our economic construction, but has also made it inevitable to adjust the pace and balance of our overall economic development and made it impossible to fulfil the third seven-year plan as scheduled," the statement said. It was an unprecedented public acknowledgement of the hardships of ordinary people, who are reported to be suffering food and power shortages.

The South Koreans are keen to go slow on threatened UN sanctions, for fear of provoking the final collapse of the regime. President Clinton's warning that North Korea's refusal to allow full outside inspections of its nuclear facilities could turn into "a full-blown crisis", have been received with dismay by Japanese diplomats and leaders. They fear that America could be provoked into taking ill-conceived military or economic initiatives in North Korea which could trigger recriminations, threatening Japan.



after the first official North Korean admission of the dire state of its economy and a series of personnel changes which reflect increasing nervousness in Pyongyang.

Most striking is the surprise re-emergence of Kim Jong Ju, President Kim's younger brother, from 18 years in the political wilderness. He was elected to the Politburo and central committee in a confusing signal which could mean not only that Kim Jong Il, son of the "Great Leader", is losing favour as his anointed successor but that the political fissures within the first family are becoming more acute. President Kim's wife is believed to oppose any role for his younger brother.

Patten hits back at China policy critic

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

The attack on British policy in Hong Kong by Sir Percy Cradock, the former ambassador to Peking, was rejected yesterday by Chris Patten, the Governor.

Sir Percy, who has been increasingly critical of the reverse in policy from that of accommodation with Peking which he had helped form, made his strongest criticism yet to the Commons select committee on foreign affairs on Wednesday, giving a warning that Mr Patten's policies would provoke disastrous retaliation from the Chinese. He was joined in his attack by Sir Richard Evans and Sir Alan Donald, two other former ambassadors to China.

Mr Patten said the voice of Hong Kong was clear, as was the voice of the House of Commons, where members support the current policy, in contrast to what he referred to as "retired officials". The Governor insisted that he speaks up for Hong Kong and that next month he, too, would testify to the select committee.

Sir Percy, Sir Richard, and Sir Alan all emphasised the importance of confidential dealing with Peking. To this Mr Patten replied "I don't think you can treat a community like Hong Kong in a hole in the corner way." Hong Kong's citizens, he said, were not irresponsible children who could not be trusted.

As to Sir Percy's warning that Peking would launch a damaging attack on Hong Kong, installing its own government in 1997 and hindering economic progress, the Governor praised a statement yesterday by Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, hoping for a smooth transition to

1997. "There's plenty on which we can agree," said Mr Patten, "plenty on which we must co-operate." In a reference to Sir Percy's advice not to affront Peking, the Governor declined to "do whatever Chinese officials tell you to do".

However, Mr Qian told a meeting of China's new preparatory committee for Hong Kong that Peking must speed up its own planning for the 1997 transition. With or without Britain, he said, Hong Kong was soon to return to the arms of the motherland.

Peking yesterday gave the strongest official indication to date that they might return to the negotiating table if Mr Patten delayed his plan to submit a partial electoral reform bill to Hong Kong's legislature this month.

"The Chinese side has always hoped to settle the issue of the 1994-95 election arrangements in Hong Kong through negotiations," said Wu Jianmin, a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

"That the talks have broken down and cannot go on is entirely the fault of the British side. To resume them, the British side should change its course and correct its errors which have led to the breakdown of talks."

Mr Patten was supported by Anson Chan, the new Chief Secretary and Deputy Governor, who said yesterday that, while some of those testifying to the select committee wanted the best for the colony, "of course, we in Hong Kong also have a view on what is best for Hong Kong".

Bernard Levin, page 20



More than 5,000 farmers shouting slogans as they marched through Tokyo yesterday to protest against plans to import rice. Under the Gatt proposals, Japan would not be permitted to impose bans on rice imports and it is seeking a compromise of taxing imports for six years

Rebel group offers to talk peace with Rangoon

FROM SUTIN WANNABOVORN IN BANGKOK

BURMA'S biggest rebel group said yesterday that plans to hold peace negotiations with the country's military rulers to end nearly half a century of fighting were moving forward and talks could begin soon.

Em Marha, spokesman for the Karen National Union (KNU), a

Christian opposition group, said the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) had received a letter from the rebel umbrella organisation, the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), seeking a formal invitation to begin talks.

"Slorc has received our letter and we hope that they will reply soon, because we really want to go to these peace talks," Mr Em said in a

telephone interview. The letter was signed by General Saw Bo Mya, the Karen leader, who is chairman of the DAB. Khin Nyunt, secretary of Slorc and Burma's intelligence chief, has in the past two months offered peace talks to rebel groups.

"At this point we do not demand anything. We want them to answer officially," Mr Em said. "Then we can begin." The letter asks Slorc "to make

a response for a clearer understanding of its position".

Many of the rebel groups have been fighting for autonomy from Rangoon virtually from the time Burma won its independence from British colonial rule in 1948. At least four of the armed rebel organisations have reached peace agreements with Slorc. The DAB was founded in 1988 and is now dominated by the KNU. (Reuter)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Singapore leaks trial must go on

Singapore: The judge trying five economists and journalists for breaching Singapore's Official Secrets Act rejected defence calls for acquittal and ruled that the state had a case against them. The defence may now call witnesses.

Judge Richard Magnus told the court the prosecution had made out prima facie cases against the five on charges of leaking an official economic growth estimate, resulting in its publication. (Reuter)

General held

Hong Kong: A Thai army general appeared in court here charged with drug trafficking and conspiracy to import heroin into America. Officials in the United States are seeking his extradition. (Reuter)

Mixed blessing

Hong Kong: A depressed schoolboy who leapt 15 storeys survived when a tin roof broke his fall. Police then discovered his brother from China had overstayed his visa and arrested him pending deportation. (Reuter)

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An apple a day keeps the bank at bay

Take a big bite for Britain

I SOLEMNLY swear I shall never again let a foreign apple pass my lips between August and the end of April. After listening to the woes of the English apple growers, I know that a French Golden Delicious or a Chilean Granny Smith — pretty tasteless at the best of times — would turn to ashes in my mouth. And as for apples, so for mushrooms and the whole gamut of British-grown produce. Please join me, ladies and gentlemen, in the foodie-xenophobic crusade that is, I am certain, the only way the green and pleasant hills of this land have a chance of surviving the droughted Gatt.

So much official propaganda have we had about the despicable *chien-en-fer* attitude of the French farmers, spilling the free trade fun for the rest of us, that the average punter could be forgiven for thinking French farmers are the only ones with anything to worry about. Well, let me tell you the apple story, the 1993, pre-Gatt apple story, and you can judge for yourselves.

A cousin of mine, a small Somerset grower, rang me up in a fine old lady after a deeply gloomy meeting of local growers, several of whom, after two years of bumper crops and rock bottom prices, are now nose-to-nose with the wall. They had been sipping dismal tales: reported sightings of Kenish Cox's being flogged at 5p a pound, an average retail price of 38p to 49p (compared with 75p three seasons ago). The boss of Home Grown Fruits, the biggest of the growers' co-operatives, wringing his hands because the growers had unaccountably miscalculated and landed him with twice as many apples to shift this year as he was expecting, and how come the research boys still hadn't come up with a way to store Cox's so that they don't deteriorate? Nasty, tasteless but cheap foreign apples everywhere, and yet you can't buy an English apple in France or Germany for love or money...

In short, who's to blame and what's to do? By telephone I rounded up the usual suspects — supermarkets, wholesalers, a French grower or two, the Ministry — and have to report first, that there is no single villain and second, that the only thing to do is to turn Britain into a nation of foodie-xenophobes. Fast.

It is ironic that this crisis should come in the year that Sainsbury's is stocking nearly forty varieties of English apples, varieties such as Blenheim Orange, D'Arcy Spice and Michaelmas Red that ten years ago no one ever thought to see on a British grocer's shelves again. Allan Cheesman, the chief produce buyer, has been pushing them like mad, and this is the

first year he's sold more British apples than French. All those little Union Jack stickers with the name of the variety on each apple have paid off, as did his apple tasting, arranged like a wine tasting, that sent the food writers into adjectival ecstasy.

Nevertheless, supermarkets have a price war of their own going on, and Mr Cheesman admits his prices are too low to keep the growers going — 25p to 32p a pound to the suppliers, 38p to the customer. Growers are not kidding when they say "Use us or lose us".

The fact that French growers are losing £1,500 a hectare for the second year running, and that 800,000 tonnes of French apples are being picked up at the intervention price of 3p or 4p a pound is small comfort. We know the French public buys

over 90 per cent French apples, while the British buy under 40 per cent British, but it can't be attributed to chauvinism alone. Mr Cheesman says his French supermarket colleagues admit to being too scared to stock English apples. "It's the rule of the farmer's gun and boot," he says. "They'll have all their windows broken if they do."

As usual, the British end of the playing field is full of bumps. Germany's techniques for keeping British produce out may be subtle, but they also work. There are irritants like the fact that the Dutch government is handing out grants to build cold stores while ours isn't. For years the European Community ministers would solemnly swear they weren't making illicit grants to the industry. Not nationally, they weren't, but Britain was alone in not doing so through regional mechanisms. How else does one imagine small French family growers managed to acquire their computerised stores?

HOWEVER, it is pointless to pick nits in the context of the massive worldwide over-production we are now seeing. David Browning, a Kentish grower and vice-chairman of English Apples & Pears, is too realistic either to try special pleading with the Government or to expect anything of some generalised Gatt anti-dumping clause once the minimum import price into the European Union is dropped and the floodgates open.

So there will be tears, but we can reduce them (not to mention the half of our trade deficit accounted for by imports of food and drink) by resolutely buying British, and demanding that supermarkets flag British produce and itemise it all as British in our till receipts. At least it will leave a better taste in the mouth.



MARGOT NORMAN

Reasons why I hate you



Colin Ferguson is led away by police for arraignment on murder charges. Notes found in his apartment reveal the paranoid obsessions of a mind beyond recall

Was this week's commuter train massacre really racist revenge?

Ben Macintyre reports on our need to explain the inexplicable

When Colin Ferguson boarded the 5.33 train from Manhattan to Fort Jefferson he was carrying a 9mm Ruger semi-automatic pistol, more than 100 rounds of ammunition in a canvas bag and a series of handwritten notes stuffed into the pockets of his jacket.

Little over half an hour later four people were dead (a fifth would die later), more than two dozen were wounded and Ferguson was in police custody, accused of one of the most systematic and brutal massacres, even by the standards of America's recent bloody history.

The notes carried by Ferguson, a 35-year-old black man born in Jamaica, and other documents found in his Brooklyn apartment, were written in an odd, looping scrawl, a testament to a mind fervid with perceived injustice. "Reasons for this..." begins one scrap of paper; "Additional Reasons for this..." begins another.

Ferguson's rage, to judge from his scribbles, ran deep and wide. He railed against whites and Asians. "Uncle Tom Negroes", New York's Governor Mario Cuomo, the police, civil rights leaders, his Brooklyn neighbours, "Corrupt 'black' attorneys who not only refuse to help me but tried to steal my car", and many more.

There was disjointed fury here, but there was also calculation. Ferguson travelled to California last May to buy his gun for \$400, and he dutifully waited the required 15 days before collecting his purchase.

"NYC was spared", he wrote, "because of my respect for Mayor David Dinkins... Nassau County is the Venue." The burly black gunman, once a student at Adelphi College in Long Island, had spent entirely unaided until the train left New York City and entered the white suburbs of Nassau County before

opening fire because he did not want to embarrass the outgoing black mayor of New York by committing mass slaughter on his turf.

The day after the massacre, as Ferguson was charged with four counts of murder, police displayed his jottings with something close to relief. The notes, they proclaimed, explained the hitherto inexplicable: Ferguson was motivated by racial hatred.

That is an easy explanation for Ferguson's stream of vitriol. The charge of racial discrimination runs through all the notes: from "the false Allegations Against me by the filthy Caucasian Racist Female on the #1 Line" to "that Chinese racist Mr Sue who will never put me to shame again without Cause".

A particular source of fury seems to have been his arrest for harassment in February 1992. In a long, rambling letter to Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, Ferguson laid out a string of reasons why his treatment by the racist Caucasian police officers had been "particularly vicious [sic] and racist".

Nothing could be more natural, of course, than the need to explain

Reasons for this
The sloppy running
of the #2 train
IT IS RACISM by
CAUCASIANS AND
UNCLE TOM NEGROES
Also
The false allegations
Against me by the
filthy Caucasian
Racist Female on the
#1 Line

the motives of an individual who would enter a train and begin the casual murder of complete strangers. But Ferguson's "Reasons for this" are not reasons at all, still less explanations. Someone who would commit mass murder might do so because of toothache, or a parking

also have believed he was acting on precedent. Recently he threatened police lawyers, referring to a mass murder at a law firm in California. That episode was "explained" by the fact that the gunman, who later shot himself, was angered by a failed real estate deal.

For 12 hours after last Tuesday's shooting police refused to release the name of the suspect, or a possible motive. The killer remained faceless, nameless, incomprehensible and terrifying. New Yorkers are sleeping easier tonight in the belief that Ferguson acted out of simple racism, for that is something they understand and live with every day. The sheer horror of the killing has already been diluted by the decision to prosecute the case as a crime of racial bias.

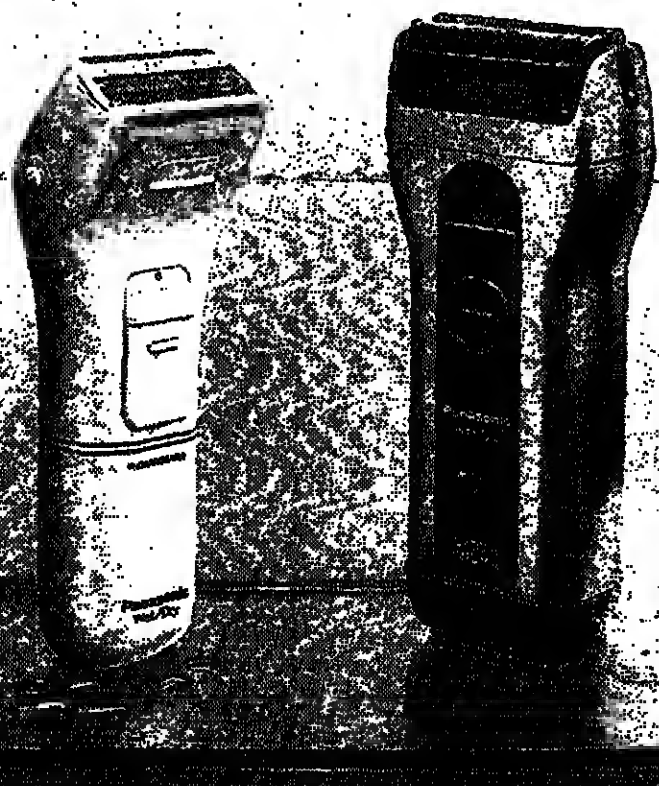
When Ferguson was taken in handcuffs from the Long Island courthouse on Wednesday, a reporter asked him if he hated white people. "It's a lie," he replied.

Perhaps he spoke the truth, for a close reading of Ferguson's scrawls and his rambling, splenetic letters does not reveal a racist, but a paranoid madman. He hated, and felt he was victimised by, everyone: workers' compensation boards, politicians, the elderly woman whose apartment he rented, his neighbours ("I hate them with a passion"). Even "the sloppy running of the #2 line" raised his fury.

Despite his endless repetition of the charge of racism, his written words are really a deranged combination of resentment, attention-seeking and revenge. "Those filthy swine that live at 226 Martense St, Bklyn, are not my friends," he scrawls. "Once they hear of this they will loot all the evidence in my room..."

When he walked down the aisle of the Long Island Rail Road train, the gunman aimed with deadly precision, shooting to right and left, one witness recalled, "as if he was collecting tickets". The jottings of Colin Ferguson, however, are scatter-shot, a tantrum at anyone and everyone who had offended him. He chose to call this racism, but there is no reason why we should, just for our own peace of mind.

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Where did French films go wrong?

Don't tell the Parisians... but their new patriotic blockbuster is a turkey. One of many, says Charles Bremner

Imagine switching on Bruce Forsyth and finding Laurence Olivier and Sting crooning a corny duet, followed by a government minister who blesses the effort as high art. The French equivalent could be witnessed a couple of days ago when Gérard Depardieu sang with the balladeur Renaud on *Sacré Soirée*, one of those kitschy shows where everyone fondles huge phallic microphones. Depardieu, who has replaced the Louvre as the national monument, and Renaud, a Gallic Dave Spill, are the stars of *Germinal*, Claude Berri's Zola epic which is not so much a film as flagship of the campaign against Gatt.

Film-makers may not yet need state approval to make a picture without le Gérard National, but he has rarely been off the stage in recent weeks as Jacques Toubon, the culture minister, has rallied the defence of the Gallic soul. The patriotic juices have positively boiled this week as the Americans, under pressure from Jack Valenti, boss of the Hollywood lobby, have fought harder than expected against France's demands to preserve Europe's subsidies and broadcast quotas.

The French argument is simple. "The American cinema is constructed like a war machine," says Depardieu. "The European cinema is in mortal danger." President Mitterrand says the Americans are trying to impose "totalitarian" domination over the minds of the world. Thanks to an 11 per cent ticket tax and other levies,

France has preserved an industry that turns out 150 features a year, compared with 30 or so in Britain. Berri, one of the heavy-weight luvvies who have been hammering the Gatt case, notes that without state backing he could never have made *Germinal*.

Few dare utter the anathema in public, but all that subsidising might just be the reason why French films are now so feeble. Since the Mitterrand administration began pouring money into the "cinematic arts", a pall of political correctness has descended on the auteurs and producteurs.

The secret that dares not speak its name is that *Germinal* is a terminally turgid turkey. Among official thinkers, only Bernard-Henri Lévy, the celebrity philosopher, has pointed out the fact as cinema-goers have gone dutifully to this tale of woe in the Victorian pits. When American critics ridiculed *Germinal* this week, the French saw it as a further example of the *Jurassic* conspiracy.

According to the French thesis, America and the world would lap up such French oeuvres if it could only get to see them. The problem, they say, is simply market access. Hollywood and the distributors reply that the real reason is that French films are just boring. Too often they are exercises in navel-gazing, or historical literary pageants, à la Jean de Florette and *Madame Bovary*, or good comic concepts buried in obscure dialogue. The last category is often successfully repackaged

Jeanne Moreau and Oskar Werner in *Jules et Jim*; but where is the new Truffaut?

by Hollywood, as in the case of *Trois Hommes et un Couffin*, Americanised into *Three Men and a Cradle*.

One longs for the days when there was excitement over the latest Truffaut, when the young Scorsese, Altman, and Coppola looked to Paris for tips. Where is the new *Jules et Jim* or, in more commercial terms, *Un Homme et Une Femme*?

The latest effort by Claude Lelouch — *Tout Ca Pour Ça* — is a sorry parody of the stylish romance that packed them in more than 25 years ago. A typical specimen of the over-wrought product is André Téchiné's *Ma Saison Préférée*, France's en-

try in the last Cannes festival, starring Catherine Deneuve and Daniel Auteuil. What should have been a pleasure was the umpteenth replay of that favourite theme, the bourgeoisie agonising over family relationships.

While American films have kept static at about 60 per cent of the French cinema for the past decade, the audience for French-made films has been sagging. The trend is starting to worry the beneficiaries of the state hand-outs. Claude Sautet, whose *Un Coeur en Hiver* is doing quite well abroad, grumbled the other day that the cinema has divided into two sterile camps — high-minded introspection on a literary theme and a popular

product of local interest. The best example of the latter is *Les Visiteurs*, a comedy which has broken French records. A vulgar Pythonesque spoof on the Middle Ages, it is hilarious at mocking Gallic foibles, but would stand no chance in an American multiplex.

The thinking classes heard some home truth last week from Mario Vargas Llosa, the Peruvian writer and francophile. Invecting against the film bureaucracy, he wondered in an open letter to France: "Do you really believe that a government would have financed the anarchic irreverence of Bunuel's *Age d'Or*, the non-conformism of *Citizen Kane* or the insolence of *A Bout de Souffle*?"

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George Austin on adultery, Welsh rarebit — and the failure of the Church leaders to take a moral stand

'It shouldn't be me — the bishops should say these things'

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

"THAT preposterous archdeacon, doesn't he make you want to vomit? His fatness, his smugness..." A chorus of reproachful voices slipped the historian David Starkey's insults hurled at the Venerable George Austin, Archdeacon of York, during Radio 4's *The Moral Maze* yesterday, and it was Ken Livingstone who sprang to his defence. "The archdeacon is a character," he said, "and says what he thinks, and that adds to the gaiety of the nation — and at least makes people think."



Like most fuses, it had begun casually. The archdeacon was just dropping off to sleep towards midnight on Monday when GMTV roused him: would he come in at dawn to talk about the Prince of Wales? He went, but there was a technical hitch. This made the archdeacon rather cross, so when the *Today* programme rang in-said he gladly made "friendly, light-hearted remarks" about the prince's unfitness to become king. "I said nothing I haven't said before," he says, "but all hell broke loose."

"My wife tells me there are 58 messages on the answering machine... reporters outside the house..." In fact the archdeacon was in London having his hair cut ("my barber has just shown me a copy of *The Sun*") before meeting me at his hotel for a glass of Bailey's Irish Cream liqueur.

He is a congenial cover: absurdly boyish at 62, a ringer for Gerald Campion playing Billy Bunter. He told me two very jolly funeral jokes and an apocryphal one about the ten commandments. Moses comes down and says: "Do you want the good news or the bad news? The good news is I've knocked him down to ten. The bad news is that adultery's still in."

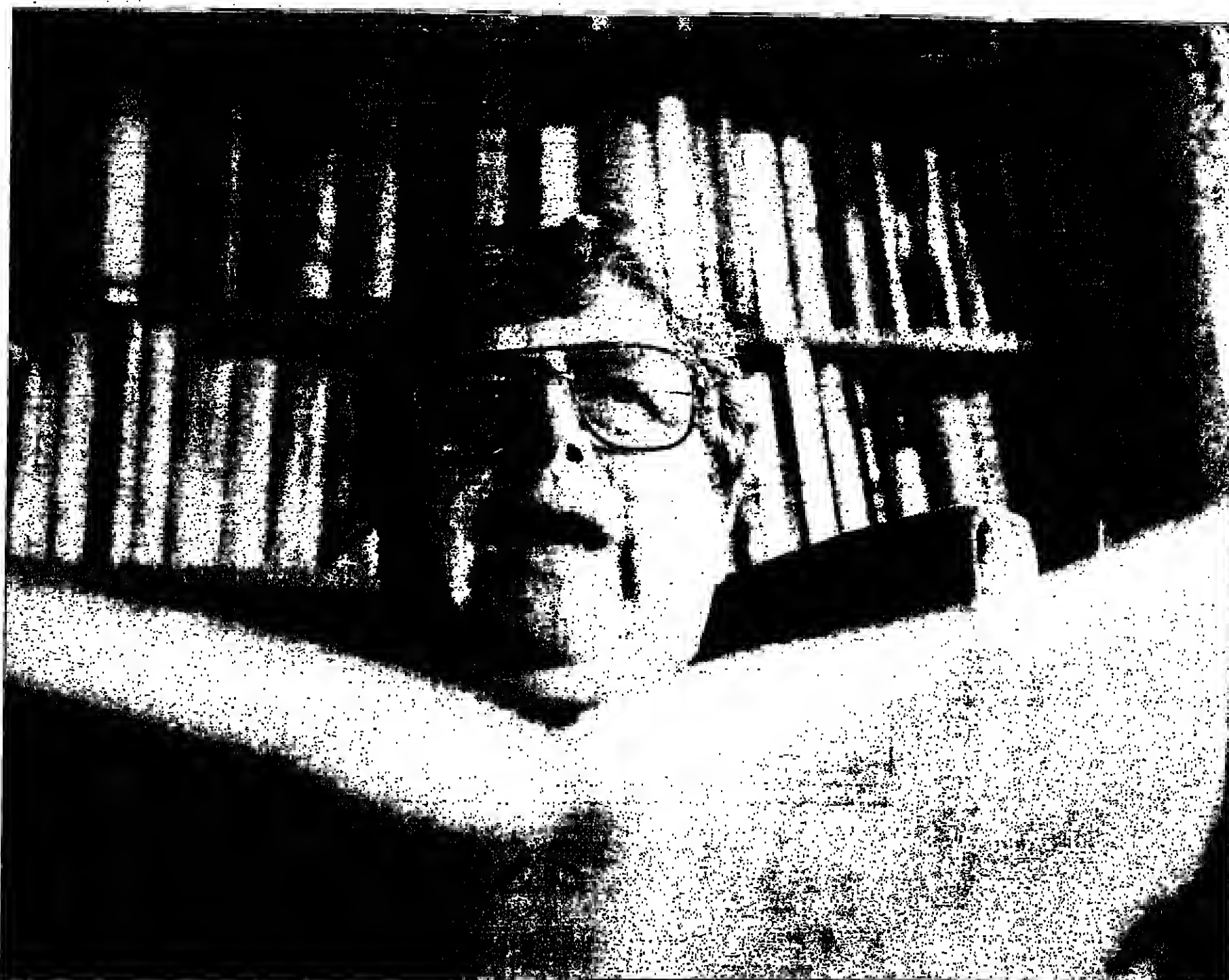
If he had set out to cause an uproar, he would never have picked this week, when he was actually with the two archbishops (hours of laughter) at Synod policy meetings. Yet Canterbury had boomed at him across the table, and York was very friendly. After all, he appointed me, knowing my views, to a position of leadership, where my voice would be heard.

The Archdeaconry of York is, in fact, no more important than any other, "but sounds as though it is," he chuckles. He was once flying to Australia with his archbishop, and the chief flight lieutenant asked what was the difference between the two. "I said 'well, it's a bit like you and the captain of this aircraft: he thinks he's flying it, but you know you're not,'" he says. "I told John Habgood that. He has a very good sense of humour. And an outstanding mind. He cannot be pigeonholed, like some. He has no predictable views. I think dissent is a plus — as in marriage."

Tell me about your marriage, I said. After all, everyone has been flinging "Let him who casts the first stone..." and "Let him who is without sin among you..." at him. "Well, I have never been unfaithful to my wife," he said, "and I could not conceive of hurting her in that way. If I did I would lose my family, my home and my job. We are each other's best friend." Roberta, "Bobbie", now his secretary, is even more against women priests than he, though at home they keep off churchy matters. They met when he was a curate in Dunstable and she was teaching in a school next to the crematorium. He called on her after a funeral. Yes, it was the greatest luck to be married to someone whom you want to cleave only unto.

His second love is food — "We all have our 'Achilles' heel' — and cooking is his hobby. A typical Austin dinner party: artichoke and Maroloup soup (whizz up tin artichokes with chicken stock, add Maroloup), smoked salmon with poached egg and cream, beef studded with smoked oysters; Welsh rarebit with Lancashire cheese, as his mother used to do it. "It is making me very hungry," he said, "just talking about it."

His title is The Venerable; people call him Dr Austin but he is a mere BA from St David's, Lampeter. His father was a wholesale tobacconist in Bury, which stopped young George ever having his first fag. He is amenable to the press, he says.

In a royal row — the Venerable George Austin has found that invitations to preach at parish churches, with Sunday lunch *après* at the vicarage, have almost dried up

because bishops treat reporters as enemies, while his wife tells him to "think of Jeremy" (their only son, senior reporter on the *Watford Observer*).

What strikes him as odd is that only a week ago the Church was being accused of failing to take a moral lead. "Yet now they say the Archdeacon of York shouldn't be saying these things — and I agree: it should not be me, it should be the bishops, guardians of the faith. We have some clergy who deny every article of the Christian faith — yet I am declared by the Bishop of Norwich to have 'eccentric views'."

It was the sermon he preached from York Minster in 1988 after his friend Canon Gareth Bennett's suicide following his Crookford's preface that pitched him into the public eye. "That sermon — about the acceptance of homosexuality, feminist liturgies, the attack on traditional doctrines — got such stick from the hierarchy, but it's all happened: a service in Manchester Cathedral where God was called 'Mother', and the bishop supported it: lay celebration of the eucharist, the church, embracing Robertson's *Hare in All Gas and Gaiters*. He has 236 parish churches, two-thirds of them

listed, steeped in history, with here a chalice inscribed 1663, there the marks of arrows from the Wars of the Roses...

But the truth is, the archdeacon is having difficulty in keeping his Sundays special. Invitations to preach at parish churches, with Sunday lunch *après* at the vicarage, have almost dried up, because of his opposition to women priests.

"Normally," he says, "my diary would be quite full until next July. But I find that I have 17 vacant Sundays... He can't just turn up uninvited at a church; he may end up celebrating the eucharist at his own kitchen table."

I get on very well with women deacons in our diocese — one of them said "George will come round, he's so sympathetic. But I won't, I respect them in the diaconate. I treat them no differently from men. But I could never be present at the ordination of a woman, nor take part in their priestly acts of the eucharist because that is not the place to make demonstrations."

The Times, having memorably declared in its leader that "A king

need not be a model husband" had asked him how he could defend his own vow of allegiance to the Queen, her heirs and successors? The archdeacon points out that the next phrase is "according to law".

There is much to be said for getting rid of the oath of allegiance, a relic of adulterous Henry VIII's political relationship to Rome.

He can sympathise with the Prince of Wales, cajoled into a marriage at 31 — the age at which he, too, married, having been in love several times — doomed from the start. So would it not be more loving and Christlike to be generous? "If he publicly renounced his past... Someone with public responsibilities has to be more harshly treated than anyone else, because of the trust involved. If I was found with my hand in the till I could repeat, but I would have to resign."

He recognises the prince's kingly qualities of social concern and public-spiritedness. "Yes, he has ideas, and ideals. The best of us are a mixture. But the fact that I do good things does not excuse my sinfulness. I still have to be penitent before God. The parable ends, 'Go and sin no more'. The trouble with

the Church today is it doesn't say that." He would not bless a second marriage: he has dedicated "new relationships" — "but I don't like it and always regret it. Christian morality is not just the perverseness of a difficult divine being."

In the ten commandments God produced the best plan for society: not to kill, not to steal. You don't adapt morality to fit in with the breakdown of society. But a lot of liberal clergy want precisely that. "Meeting people where they are", is how they put it.

Yet he is wedded to a C of E he sees crumbling around him. "I still feel the bereavement of last November, when the Church I loved and served was taken away from me, and would never be the same, not only because of women priests. It may seem irrational but that is how it feels. We are in a kind of schism."

He wakes in the night with stress headaches, which will please priests who say he is an ass with no more relevance than the bishop whose admonitory sermon preceded the Abduction but whose name is widely forgotten. Monarchs have ways of dealing with turbulent priests: but there are gender solutions than murder in the minister.

The sister who betrayed Michael Jackson

LaToya Jackson is always eager to dish the dirt, but can she be believed, asks Julia Llewellyn Smith

LaToya Jackson has done less than most to deserve fame. Her CV shows the usual showbiz B-team list of activities: a spread in *Playboy*, a flop show at the Moulin Rouge and concerts played to less-than-packed houses in the odd corners of the world.

But there is one difference between LaToya and the rest of wannabes — she is a member of the Jackson family and whenever her career is flagging she need only remind the world of this fact.

LaToya's career has certainly been on the wane of late. She cancelled a tour of South Africa because tickets had failed to sell. But could it really just have been a desire for publicity that led her to accuse her brother, Michael Jackson, of "crimes against small, innocent children"?

The rest of the Jacksons certainly thought so. LaToya,

her parents said yesterday, was "selling her brother down the line", egged on by her husband and manager, Jack Gordon. "For the love of money, they will do anything. These claims are simply ludicrous," said her mother, Katherine Jackson.

It is certainly not the first time LaToya, 36, has blown the lid on her family's cereal-box image as America's answer to the von Trapps.

The world saw an all-singing, all-dancing team of smiling, curly-haired brothers, all devout Jehovah's Witnesses; LaToya, meanwhile, describes a home life made miserable by a domineering father, who ruled his children through emotional, physical and, in the case of his daughters, sexual abuse. Her mother, she claims, made no attempt to stop him. "We lived in the kind of house which made you feel you want to kill yourself," she has said. "She always lies." Joe, her father, said yesterday. It is these experiences, she says now, which make her determined to speak out against her brother. "I have been hurt by it too. My father molested me sexually and I don't like it," she said.

Any family might be understandably misled by such allegations, but the Jacksons, it seems, have taken things a step further. According to LaToya, her family are so determined to stop the truth coming out that they have tried to sabotage her shows, have made several kidnapping attempts and have tried to assassinate her. Her autobiography *LaToya* Jackson reads like the script of a James Bond movie, with scenes of treacher-

ous bodyguards trying to snatch her away, dramatic car chases and imprisonment plots.

While such wild allegations are bone-chilling, many of LaToya's outbursts are hilarious. When Michael wept on Oprah Winfrey's shoulder, telling of his rare skin disease that was turning his black skin white, the world felt for him. Until his sister hit back. "I have never heard of a skin disease in our family. I don't think he's ever had one. I think it's very heavy make-up. Somebody should say to Michael: 'It's a bit too bright'."

LaToya has mocked rumours that she and Michael are the same person, a story supported by their resemblance to one another, their identical high-pitched voices, the fact that there are almost no photographs of them together and that they have both had their noses pared to chicken-bone dimensions by plastic surgery. Michael, she claims, "stole her face", demanding surgeons to mould him in her image.

Central to LaToya's actions appears to be her husband, whom she always refers to as Mr Gordon. According to LaToya, he has been her saviour, the man she married in order to escape the threats of her family. She refuses to sleep with her husband because of the abuse she allegedly suffered, and they talk happily in front of each other about how they long for the day they divorce.

The Jacksons, however, describe Gordon as a Swedish-like figure who manipulated their daughter into making a



LaToya Jackson accused Michael of 'crimes against children'

string of profitable accusations. Here, too, the feud descends into farce. Last summer, Janet Jackson accused Gordon of brainwashing her sister. Gordon hit back by saying Janet's bottom was "so huge it takes up two chairs".

LaToya's habit of granting

interviews for nothing less than a six-figure sum has done little to aid her credibility. But Michael's "whacko" image has done him no favours either. Nor has the list of testimonies from boys admitting to having (innocently) shared a bed with the singer.

So which of these obviously eccentric siblings are we to believe? Maureen Orth, an American journalist who has written a 15-page article on the Jackson case for this month's *Vanity Fair*, thinks LaToya may have a case. "It's true that LaToya and Michael stayed at home longest with their mother, so she certainly knows Michael very, very well," she says. "I think some of the stuff she says can be credible."

J. Randy Taraborrelli, the author of *Michael Jackson: the Magic and the Madness*, an unauthorised biography,

'For the love of money, they will do anything. These claims are simply ludicrous'

disagrees. "I have lost a lot of respect for LaToya through this. In the past, I have interviewed her and thought her stories of abuse seemed credible. Now I am having to revise everything."

"LaToya has no proof. She hasn't talked to Michael for five years. She's as bad as all the bodyguards and chauffeurs who are rushing to cash in on Jackson's misfortune."

Whatever the truth, nobody has emerged well from this mystery. "I don't think you can take any of the Jacksons at their word," Ms Orth says. "They have been manipulating the media since Michael was a tiny boy."

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Philip Howard



Bashful Bowdler is being blunted; by and by he will blush at our boldness

Blessed are the pure, for they shall inherit the earth. I sat up with a jerk when I heard the Controller of Radio 3 refer three times to a bowdlerised text, in his talk about Purcell. Thereafter, references to bowdlerisation polluted reviews of *The Purcell Experience* in the post papers, such as "Anon's bowdlerisation of *Midsummer Night's Dream*". So what is going on here, dear Controller? Rude puns buried fathoms deep in *Didio and Aeneas*; previously unsuspected lubricities in the *Cole for St Cecilia's Day*? I had never before considered Purcell as the rap composer of his day, giving his singers sly improprieties to warble.

Then I twigged. The word "bowdlerisation" was being used to mean a heavily cut and mutilated text, with no hint of expurgation, sparing maidenly blushes or cutting out the dirty bits. Perhaps there was a subconscious Spoonerist echo of disembowelling. So the whole point of Dr Bowdler was being forgotten, and a precise dagger of a word was being turned into blunt instrument. There may still be time to save the precision of a useful word, by remembering how Bowdler joined the band of eponyms who have left their names to the language.

Bowdler claimed to love Shakespeare, except for the rude bits — a big exception. His *Family Shakespeare*, deleting anything that could be considered sexy, came out much shorter. He cut Juliet's speech of longing for Romeo, "Gallop apace, you fiery-footed steeds... from 30 lines to 15. He reduced Lear's speech, "Let copulation thrive", with the distressing behaviour of the small gilded fly, from 22 lines to seven. Some characters, such as Doll Tear-sheet, were completely removed. Bowdler washed his hands of doing anything to purify *Measure for Measure*, and decided that the whole of *Othello* was "unfortunately little suited to family reading", recommending a transfer "from the parlour to the cabinet". This was as hypocritical as asking a jury whether they would let their wives or servants read *Lady Chatterley's Lover*.

Bowdler had sex on the brain — a bad place to have it. But his bowdlerisation was popular. Just before his death he finished the Herculean job of cleaning Gibbons' *Pedline and Fall*, existing jokes about religion and the licentious passages glossed in the chastity belt of a learned language. His agenda was so to purify Shakespeare and Gibbons that they could no longer "raise a blush on the cheek of modest innocence nor plant a pang in the heart of the devout Christian".

The complete works of Shakespeare used by leader writers at *The Times* to verify references and add a touch of class to an otherwise arid argument has been bowdlerised by a puritanical epigonus of Thomas Bowdler, who has pencilled out all references to such beastliness as mother's milk, virgins, and all bodily functions. All efforts to clean up Shakespeare are as futile as trying to desalinate the ocean. All human life is in there, and sex was an important part of life, then as now.

But to take Bowdler's name in vain for any kind of editing is to forget his life's work, and to erode a sharp meaning. Bowdler was in business simply to remove sex, bodily functions and irreverence from his texts, nothing more. Of course words travel on from their origins. *The Times* extended Bowdler's brief in 1990: "Male, modern, macho: When *The Taming of the Shrew* was staged in New York's Shakespeare festival this summer, it was bowdlerised to dilute the bard's misogynist sentiments." Perhaps that was an early sign of Bowdler's slippage.

This change follows the slipshod extension of a word such as *alibi*, now used as any old excuse or defence, and also, bizarrely, as a verb; and *decimation*, used for wholesale destruction rather than reduction by one in ten, which the word's form declares. This blunting of precision spoils the language. It is ironic that Bowdler, who devoted his life to removing offence for puritans, should now be offending purists who like precision in language. His is a good word going to the bad. But it is damnably hard to stop such slippage. For the present, let us try to remember Dr Bowdler properly. In the long run, gird up your loins, smite him and **** him, we'll all be in Bowdlerland, by and by.



Appeasement lives on

My devotion to the cause of my beloved Hong Kong has been frequently aired on this page. I think recent developments require another airing.

On Wednesday of this week there was a session of the House of Commons foreign affairs committee, which was devoted to Hong Kong. Inevitably, the actions of the present Governor, Christopher Patten, were discussed at length.

Now most of the time I have thought well of the present Governor, he has been more cautious than I could have wished, but it has been clear that he is doing the right thing — that is, being as conciliatory as possible when facing Chinese demands, but standing very firm when Hong Kong's fundamental needs and safeguards (particularly safeguards) are in question.

But I could not be sure the slow pace towards democracy, the finessing rather than rejecting of Chinese threats, the inevitable yearning to go home — these and other such shadows made me uneasy, and I had to ask myself the question that would not leave me: was Patten really right?

Then, in the improbable venue of the Commons' foreign affairs committee, it was found that at a single stroke all doubts had disappeared, the shadows had fled, my unease turned to certainty, and I knew that Patten was not only on the right lines, but could be trusted to forge ahead with fresh confidence in hastening the pace of democratic self-rule. And whence came this new and exciting atmosphere? Why, when called to give the committee his opinions, Sir Percy Cradock denounced the whole action in thunderous tones — saying "... lasting confrontation... a tragedy for Hong Kong... dangerous and reckless policy... do much more harm to Hong Kong... putting at risk the increase in democracy in Hong Kong to which China had agreed..." — and when Sir Percy Cradock says that it is so and thus, we may all breathe easily in the absolute certainty that it is neither thus nor so.

Mark: Sir Percy doesn't tell lies, nor is he even stupid, and he certainly doesn't take bribes; he is just wrong. Indeed, you can set your watch by his wrongness. But that is not some kind of whim on his part, or a flash that he cannot shake off. His problem was dramatically demonstrated in a little-noticed passage in his lecture to the committee: he rejected as an "extraordinary and ignorant distortion"

Foreign Office timidity over Hong Kong is a betrayal of Britain's commitment to do the right thing by former colonies

then the suggestion that "British policy on Hong Kong had been directed by Sino-centric officials at the Foreign Office such as himself".

And there you have it: not even I could improve on what those words portend, though for me the Foreign Office ranks only very slightly higher than the Home Office, and it is well known that my regard for that nosome place and its occupants is such that I have repeatedly called for it to be burned to the ground and the ruins sown with salt. Of course it is true that British policy on Hong Kong has been directed by Sino-centric officials at the Foreign Office such as Sir Percy. That, after all, is why he is always wrong: since the Foreign Office is always wrong, it follows that its denizens must also be wrong. But, you may ask, why does the Sino-centric nature of the Foreign Office inevitably lead to wrongness? Here, we must broaden our investigations.

The culture of appeasement has, through many decades, run like an ineradicable poisoned stream, and it is impossible to cleanse it and make it safe. The reason for the obstinacy of the fatal matter is that the Foreign Office, more than any other department, chooses its intake with immense care. Though the actual words may not be in use, their meaning cannot be mistaken: is he one of us? And if he is, he is certainly not going to break with the tradition of giving in. Don't tell me that all those stories died in the ancient past along with Hitler; you only have to recall the Falklands to recall also the Foreign Office's attitude — Thatcher practically had to go over and beat them over the head.

With that in mind, let us see what Sir Percy Cradock, having calmed down (if indeed he is not still raging), would advise in this locking of horns. First, though, we must take cognisance of the fact that Patten has suffered seventeen sets of talks on the disputed subject, and

all he has got from them is seventeen headaches. Moreover, the Chinese have made clear that if Patten goes ahead with his mild — for me far too mild — proposals, or even one of the proposals, they will break off the talks. And the Chinese have said that "Once the British side submits the 'Political Reform Programme' to the Legislative Council, either completely or partially, it will mean the British side has unilaterally closed the door of negotiations."

Now let us see the cavalry, in the form of Sir Percy Cradock, galloping over the hill to the rescue. This is how he does it.

"Unilateral action and confrontation with China would be more damaging to Hong Kong in its special circumstances than a negotiated settlement." And what is meant by "a negotiated settlement"? It is the "policy of co-operation with China on the best terms we can get". And

then those weasel words — though no self-respecting weasel would use them — that tell us that Britain would be worse off if Britain "insists on regarding democracy as the only virtue worth pursuing". Oh, Sir Percy, democracy is the only virtue worth pursuing, when we are facing those who know not democracy. Did you not know that? But Sir Percy has some more words for us. Try "As regards our obligation to push democracy, we have no legal obligation to put forward the Patten reforms."

And these words from one of the questioners of Sir Percy:

"... I put it to you that the question of the liberty of people like Martin Lee, who after all has been pressing for democracy for decades, seems to have been completely ignored by the British Government... Do you not feel yourself that the British Government... and those who advised it, including yourself obviously... bear a very big responsibility for the present impasse...?"

To which our hero replied "It is an extraordinary and ignorant distortion",

Bernard Levin

Scythes of relief

YULETIDE greetings from the Arts Council this year are being treated this year with more than a little scepticism. For the funding body's Christmas card carries a curious choice of picture: an actor playing the Angel of Death in the National Theatre's current production of *Perestroika*.

The morbid theme has understandably been regarded as a fair summation of the Arts Council's attitude towards its clients. But, to add insult to injury, the council has misspelt the name of the playwright who dreamt up the said angel. Tony Kushner, the Pulitzer prizewinner, is credited as Cuschner.

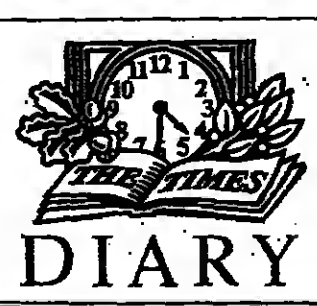
Matters get worse. The Arts Council appears to have used the picture without permission. Nonetheless, the theatre is doing its best to take the mistake in good heart. Says a source: "Perhaps it is a joke. *Perestroika* does mean restructuring, after all."

The Arts Council defends its use of the photograph: "The picture of the angel was vaguely Christmassy. We did not know it was the angel of death, but now we know that, it's rather funny."

Which is not the opinion of Tim Renton, the former Tory arts minister who calls for the abolition of the Arts Council. "It's not quite fair to say the Arts Council is the angel of death. It tries to be like the lady with the lamp, but the lamp keeps going out."

One of the 1,700 candidates in Sunday's Russian elections is conducting his campaign from America because he has been banned from canvassing in his constituency. Officials are worried that Anatoly Kashpirovsky, a hypnotist, might use his powers to exert undue influence on the voters.

Broaden the mind OUR shipping and aviation minister, the industrious Earl of Caithness, is a little wiser about his portfolio, following a series of unpleasant experiences last week. He emerged from last week's meeting of EC transport ministers to find Brussels gridlocked, the airport snowbound and the official car absent. Yet he was under a three-line whip to oppose Labour's vote of no confidence in the government. There was nothing for it but public transport.



trip in the world. Like many intrepid travellers before him, the weary peer discovered when decanted at 3 am in thick fog that the first train from Dover to London does not leave 5 am. Enough was enough. He called for his driver.

Spud-u-joathe THE MYSTERY of Robert Maxwell's enmity is at last laid bare: he loved potatoes. His passion for spuds is revealed in a book by Eleanor Berry, daughter of the former owner of *The Daily Telegraph*, Lord Hartwell.

According to Berry, who was first introduced to Maxwell in the 1960s and remained a close friend until his death, the big man had sometimes to be reined in by his personal assistant Jean Baddeley. In Robert Maxwell As I Knew Him, she talks of one lunch at Headington Hill Hall, where the

publishing potentate helped himself to an enormous number of potatoes being served a Filipino girl. Baddeley apparently turned furiously to the Filipino lady, saying: "I gave you specific instructions that Mr Maxwell was not to be offered potatoes!" After the lunch, Maxwell's daughter Isabel explained: "Once he starts eating carbohydrates he can't stop. Why else do you think we are locking him out of the larder at night?"

Where to? THE TEEMING rain on Wednesday night cost Richard Branson dear. Desperate to ensure that a business colleague reached Heathrow from central London in time for a flight, Branson was appalled to find every cab taken. Apart from one stationary at traffic lights with its "taxi" light firmly off.

He tapped on the window: "Please, please, this is urgent. Can you take this man to Heathrow." "Sorry, guv, I've had enough. I'll double the fare." "Sorry guv, I live 50 miles away and it ain't worth it." Pause. "How about a free flight to USA."

"With the wife?" "Yes." "Sorry guv, been there. It still ain't worth it." "Well anywhere in the world."

"With wife?" "Yes." With which the driver finally consented.

Sleighting them KENNETH CLARKE may be man enough to tackle the public deficit, but he won't appear as Father Christmas — not this year anyway. The Hush-Fuppled Chancellor pulled out at the last minute from an appearance as Santa yesterday at the annual Christmas party for handicapped children in Number 11.

It fell to John Major's well-padded bag-carrier Graham Bright to squeeze into the breach — and not for the first time. For although Lords Howe and Lawson were keen Santas, Norman Lamont chewed the red robe and white beard last year.

Bright and the children pressed the flesh with such heroes as pop singers Right Said Fred and "gladiators" Saracen and Scorpio. Gillian Clarke was dressed in what one unkind observer dubbed "a camel-coloured tent", and hopes were raised at one point that her husband had, at last, arrived. Sadly not. It was Mr Blobby.

● A salutary thought for the Conservative MPs who voted against Sunday shop opening last night: of the 68 Tories who opposed it in 1986, only one, Douglas Hogg, is now a minister.

Gone flat FIRST the Newbury Tories parted company with their defeated by-election candidate Julian "Blobby" Davidson. Now the same has happened in Christchurch. A new candidate is to be selected in place of Rob Hayward. Despite Hayward's reputation as Westminster as an astute psephologist, his cheery moustachioed face will be absent from Christchurch at the next general election.

"He is not seeking reselection," says Judy Jamieson, the local Tory agent in Christchurch. Hayward wants to devote himself to the British Soft Drinks Association, where he is director-general. Clearly he has lost his political fizz.

A State without a Church

David Starkey on disestablishment by the back door

The last time a senior churchman expressed public doubts about the moral suitability of a member of the royal family for the high and sacred office of king, it led to the abdication crisis of 1936. But the opinion of George Austin, the Archbishop of York, that if Prince Charles has broken his marriage vows he cannot be trusted to keep his coronation oath and would therefore be ineligible to be king, looks more likely to lead to disestablishment of the Church of England than to the dethroning of a future monarch.

For times have changed. In 1936, the Prime Minister stood behind the Archbishop of Canterbury, while behind (or rather, slightly ahead of) the Prime Minister, public opinion was united in its detestation of divorce. Most importantly, the public also practised what it wanted preached: divorce was a scandalous rarity and illegitimacy rates were low.

In 1993, things could scarcely be more different: the Archbishop acknowledges that divorce can be spiritually creative, while the Prime Minister, so indulgent to wayward ministers, can hardly turn stern moralist with the Prince of Wales. Above all, the rigid sexual codes of the 1930s have collapsed, both in practice (British rates of divorce and illegitimacy are among the highest in Europe) and in theory (a growing proportion of people, now almost half, endorse the "permissive society").

Whether you support Church or king depends essentially on your attitude to these changes. If you recognise that the Sixties brought gain as well as loss, and if you want the spheres of private morality and public life to be separated, you support Charles; but if you detect the Sixties and yearn for a single morality and the monarch as head of it, you root for the Archbishop.

Yet the Archbishop — I think involuntarily — is only a front for larger political forces. Behind him stand "Back to Basics" and a campaign to "remoralise" society. This morality, whatever its proponents may say, has almost nothing to do with religion and everything to do with social control. In this respect, it is true to the historical mission of the established Church. Christ, as 20th-century liberation theology rediscovered, had "a bias to the poor". The Church of England preached social subordination: the congregation sat hierarchically, with the rich at the front and the poor at the back, and it heard Crammer's "Homily on Obedience", sang "The rich man in his castle, the poor man at his gate", and in the 20th century was described as the Tory party at prayer.

The sexual code enforced by Church and State was just as socially utilitarian. Christ said "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone": the Church, although it did not stone adulterers, stripped them to their shirts and smocks and exposed them to public humiliation, while the mothers of bastards were flogged at the cart's tail. But it was only poor adulterers and unmarried mothers who were thus punished. This gives the game away: it was not about saving souls but about saving the social security budget of the parish.

This is not very pretty, but in the early modern period it was at least economically effective. In the "golden age" of the British family, from the 1920s to the 1950s, the balance of the account is far less favourable. In these decades, the virtues of family life were blessed by the Church and symbolised and exemplified by the Royal family: stiffly by George V and Queen Mary and more humanely by George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

But these were the years, however high our moral standards, in which our relative economic performance plunged. One fashionable explanation for this decline is that the bourgeoisie aped the economic uselessness of their betters. I suspect that the problem was the opposite: not aristocratic decadence, but middle-class respectability. For the rigid structures of family life depended on increasingly rigid patterns of employment and housing (just as the breakdown of these patterns largely accounts for the changes in today's family). In other words, Happy Families was bought at the price of economic sclerosis.

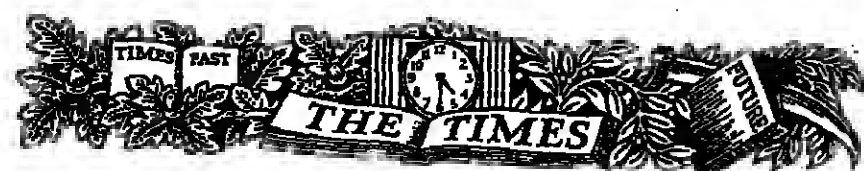
But social control, whether harmful or beneficial, has been just one of the fruits of the established Church. There are beautiful buildings, and choirs, and a Bible and liturgy that are the heart of our language. God was worshipped in incomparable English: more than God, however, the object of worship was England itself, with churches decorated not with writhing saints and simpering madonnas, but with the royal arms, the tombs of noblemen and gentlemen, and regimental flags. Let there be tears shed for these, for with them will die part of England.

The tears, however, will only be shed if disestablishment comes quickly and quietly. For official status, at first progressive, then conservative in the earlier 20th century, will become frankly reactionary from now on. For when George Carey denounces "the privatisation of morality", he is attacking not only the permissive society of the Sixties, but the competitive society of the Eighties as well.

Prince Charles, middle-aged fogey that he is, is becoming the unlikely vehicle for modernisation of monarchy, State and society. God save the king, and down with the Church!

The author is a constitutional historian at The London School of Economics.

TOKEN for delivery on your bro. مَكُونَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ



JACQUES' OTHER IDEAS

There is more to the Delors white paper than meets Major's eye

Straw men have their political uses: ministers can achieve splendid rhetorical effects by reducing them to pulp. Before heading for Brussels, John Major and Kenneth Clarke have had a fine time attacking the grandiose spending plans contained in Jacques Delors' white paper on generating jobs and economic growth prepared for today's European Union summit. This is all good political knock-about. Both men know that Germany, for one, can be counted on to deny the Commission an extra £15 billion a year of mostly borrowed money for the rest of this decade for what Mr Clarke rightly terms "as yet unspecified projects".

In their zeal to deny M Delors the chance to play Father Christmas, however, British ministers have come close to ridiculing the entire thrust of the white paper. That is less than wise, for two reasons. Britain has as much interest as its partners in being seen by the public to take today's summit debate on jobs and growth seriously. The report is verbose, some of its prescriptions are dubious and its publication was absurdly late. But the Commission's analysis of the challenges facing Europe provides the clearest evidence to date that the balance of argument in the EU is indeed, as Mr Major loves to claim, swinging his way.

Gone, for a start, is M Delors' passion for a Social Charter to regiment labour markets. Indeed, he now denies that he ever harboured such an ambition, and EU social legislation is being firmly put on hold. The new emphasis is on job-creation, and the watchwords are competition and flexibility.

The paper firmly identifies government-erected barriers to hiring as a main reason for Europe's poor record in creating jobs. It argues that regulation has priced unskilled labour out of world markets, and that non-wage costs must be overhauled — even if that means lower wages and less job security for many. Plans to create three million jobs by providing home helps for the elderly and

helping children with homework bear the old hallmarks of "social economy" engineering, and there is some contradiction between the paper's insistence that fiscal deficits must be cut and its stress on much higher spending on training and education. But the Commission's dismissal of systematic job-sharing to cut dole queues is realistic. And its robust defence of open markets, worldwide as well as within the EU, should be music to British ears.

Above all, the paper challenges European governments to face up to the inevitability of a continued, steep decline in the share of manufacturing in total employment, and to make the most of the productivity gains of the "multimedia world". This is precisely where debate needs to be joined, particularly in Europe, where governments still tend to rate "industrial policy" high and hanker for the production of "real" goods rather than the promotion of service industries.

Although the Commission rightly stresses the need to invest in the broad capacity "information highways" that are revolutionising American business, most of the solutions will be found at national level. M Delors does his "new deal" no good by putting up ministers' backs with projections of £434 billion in EU spending on transport, telecommunications, energy and the environment, particularly since he failed to run his sums past finance ministers ahead of the summit. Even Mr Clarke says that he favours new infrastructure networks across Europe, but when the European Investment Bank is awash with funds for infrastructure projects, M Delors' proposed Union bonds look like empire-building by Brussels.

Yet the summit need waste little time arguing about bills most governments have no intention of paying. This paper could spark a proper debate on free-market strategies for long-term adjustment to the post-industrial world, and Britain should grab the opportunity with both hands.

THE NO-COMMISSION MEN

How to create truly independent pensions advice

In the society of the 21st century, with its greater emphasis on personal responsibility and self-reliance, the most important decision people make in their working lives will be how they provide for their retirement. Those who are now under 45 can expect to live longer than their parents; but they cannot rely on a state pension to support them in their lengthy old age. Even if it still exists by the time they retire, the basic state pension will be virtually worthless. Membership of an occupational or a private scheme is not a luxury now: it is a necessity.

Yet the world into which they are being thrust is full of horrors which they are ill-equipped to avoid. Occupational pension schemes have been tarnished by the ease with which Robert Maxwell plundered his; the government has yet to put in place the legislation that might make such theft harder in future. And now it appears that many people who were persuaded to leave their company schemes for private plans will be worse off as a result. The insurance companies involved are being asked to compensate them with hundreds of millions of pounds.

People seeking pension advice are in as weak a position as those seeking medical help. Pensions are complex, almost impossible for most people to understand. Just as nobody would expect a patient to educate himself to deal as an equal with his doctor, it is vain to hope that more information could equip somebody buying a pension to challenge an expert's advice. When it occasionally transpires that a drugs company has offered financial inducements to a doctor to prescribe its products, the result is a scandal. Yet that is exactly how pensions are sold.

The people who sell pensions can be employed directly by an insurance company; they can be self-employed but "tied" to

that company's products; or they can be a so-called "independent financial adviser" (IFA), able to sell any products. All earn commission for each pension they sell. The IFA badge lends an only spurious reputation for independence since advisers still make money each time they sell a product. If they were to advise someone to stay in a company scheme, they would earn nothing at all.

Some may hope that the new compensation that insurance companies will be forced to pay will put a stop to advisers working against their customers' interests. For a short time it may do so. But the practice of self-regulation is being subjected to almost unbearable tension. Insurance companies are supposed to regulate their own salesmen; yet both the companies and the sales staff also want to maximise the number of pensions sold. They will always be tempted to sail as close to the wind as they can.

If the government wants to encourage private provision and personal responsibility, it has a corresponding duty to ensure that consumers are protected against abuse. The only way to do so is to make pensions advice truly independent. That will never be the case while those who advise also stand to benefit from the decisions their clients take.

At the moment, a few advisers charge fees for their consultations but split the commissions with their clients. They will never thrive while others proffer their advice "free". If it were made illegal for insurance companies to pay commission, all advisers could operate on equal terms, charging fees to customers. The pensions themselves would be correspondingly cheaper as the commission element was stripped away. Only then would consumers be able to trust their financial adviser as much as their doctor to have their best interests at heart.

VIVE LA CELEBRATION

The lessons of history for today's tunnellers

The handover of the Channel Tunnel from its constructors to Eurotunnel today is a minor staging-post in the troubled history of this notable feat of civil engineering. The English will mark the occasion in sober fashion with a presentation and symbolic linking of arms at Folkestone. The French have arranged a *son et lumière* celebration at Sangatte with fireworks, free-flowing champagne and a commemorative song.

Tempting though it is to draw conclusions about national character from this contrast, the true test of English and French enthusiasm for the tunnel will be its official opening in May. In the next five months, committees on both sides of the water must decide what cultural events will accompany the inauguration ceremony attended by the Queen and President Mitterrand.

Greatness in civil engineering and greatness in party-giving have traditionally gone together. Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel's tower, no less controversial in its day than the Channel tunnel, was the focus for the celebrations of the centenary of the French Revolution. The English and French organisers of next year's tunnel inauguration should perhaps consider the example set by Ismail Pasha, the Khedive of Egypt, who commissioned *Aida* in celebration of the opening of the Suez Canal. Although the opening of the tunnel has quibbled over chronology — Verdi did not receive the synopsis

until 1870, a year after the canal opened — there can be little doubt that the Khedive intended the grandiose production of *Aida* in December 1871 as a cultural tribute to the engineering achievement of the canal.

An opera or symphony to celebrate the link between England and France might appeal to some tastes; yet it could scarcely be relied upon to spark popular enthusiasm. A more useful precedent is provided by the opening of the Thames Tunnel in 1843.

Like the Channel Tunnel, Britain's first underwater link encountered fierce resistance in the 17 years Marc Brunel and his son Isambard spent building it. Called "The Great Bore" by *The Times*, the Rotherhithe-Wapping tunnel claimed 12 lives, suffered repeated floods and was always in financial trouble. Yet its opening 150 years ago was a triumph of popular celebration. Flags flew, church bells rang, fun-fair stalls did a brisk trade, and a grand procession including the Lord Mayor marched into the tunnel before feasting at the London Tavern. In its first 15 weeks, a million people visited the Brunels' creation, which the Duke of Wellington declared, with more enthusiasm than aesthetic sense, "the greatest work of art ever contemplated". The Channel Tunnel has yet to earn such plaudits. But a grand opening in May — pitched at citizens as well as statesmen — might persuade the British that the tunnel is a great European wonder.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Implications of revising divorce law

From Mr Brian P. Kitcher

Sir, The Green Paper for the reform of divorce law (details, December 7) has missed a golden opportunity to diminish the real acrimony often manifest on the breakdown of a marriage.

It is all very well attempting to force counselling on a couple who can no longer stand the sight of each other, often to satisfy some sort of stated ideal of supporting traditional, Victorian-style family values. We all know that there used to be fewer divorces, but there was just as much, if not more, adultery and violence.

The real issues to be addressed are those relating to financial settlements to ensure that both parties and any children are financially secure after the divorce. In the main, and I speak from experience, the courts give only as much time to the issue as to appear to have made a fair judgment.

Perhaps a divorce should not be allowed until such issues have been properly agreed with the full weight of the law behind any settlement.

As shown by your report (December 8) of a father who lost his test case in the High Court after his "clean-break" divorce settlement was overturned by the Child Support Agency, the Child Support Act is undermining court judgments already made. Any reform of the law should safeguard settlements entered into in good faith between two parties against subsequent legislation.

The Green Paper sanctions the employment of mediators. Are these mediators going to be properly qualified financial advisers who will safeguard the interests of all parties involved, or will couples merely be required to go through the motions with Relate, however good the motives of that agency?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN P. KITCHER,
1 Rushfield Bungalows,
High Bar Lane, Thakeham,
Pulborough, West Sussex
December 8.

From Mr Jack Bleiman

Sir, As a solicitor mediator with the Family Mediators Association (FMA) I found your headline, "Divorce without lawyers the cut-price answer" (December 7), somewhat disconcerting.

There is a considerable body of solicitors trained under the auspices of the FMA who have a role in mediation specifically recognised by the Law Society. When engaged in the process of mediation such solicitors wear the hat of mediators.

Nevertheless, because of their legal background they are in a position to furnish invaluable legal information to the parties, thereby materially contributing to the progress of the mediation.

Yours truly,
JACK BLEIMAN,
12 Ellington Road, Muswell Hill, N2,
December 7.

From Mr Richard Schiffer

Sir, The Lord Chancellor's moves to take some of the confrontation and cost out of divorce have the important effect of demonstrating to those unfortunate enough to be caught up in divorce that there is an alternative to adversarial court action.

His Green Paper has done more to strengthen the role and standing of mediation than we, as specialists in

the area of alternative dispute resolution, could have possibly hoped for. Our experience is that, at a time of distress and confusion, divorcing couples are crying out for the relative calm and practicality of mediation as opposed to the legalistic rigidity of the courts.

Mediation is not necessarily a route to prevention of divorce, but it is a short cut to resolving the practical problems in a non-adversarial setting. We know mediation works either in a domestic or business context and I believe what the Green Paper does is to give the public a clear message that traditional law is not the only solution open to them.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD SCHIFFER
(Chairman),
ADR Group,
46 Mount Street, W1,
December 7.

From Mr Stephen Soghoian

Sir, Libby Purves ("Child victims of divorce", December 7) is right: the children should come first. Much of the £180 million spent last year by the Legal Aid Fund on divorce cases went to fund parental battles about contact with their children.

The Lord Chancellor's new divorce reforms should include a statutory right for children to have substantial contact with both parents, which could be set aside only by a hearing in front of a jury in open court. This would eliminate tragedies like that of Peter Malkin being driven to abduction in order to see his child report.

Sincerely yours,
STEPHEN A. SOGHOIAN,
(Deputy Editor, Families Need Fathers London newsletter),
30 Homerton Road, NW6,
December 7.

From Mr Martin Harvey

Sir, In all the current discussion over British divorce proceedings, too much attention is focused on the stage once the relationship has broken down. Only then is the couple forced to consider the matter of divorce.

I have recently got married in Belgium, where you are required by law to have signed a marriage contract before getting married. My wife and I are married under the basic regime whereby all property held before the marriage returns to the owner and all property acquired after is divided, with all inherited property resting with the heir.

This is fairly standard, but a more extreme example is the case of some people we know who had their marriage contract drawn up to provide that each had to contribute 15 per cent of their earnings to a special bank account which could be touched only in the case of one of the spouses leaving the other.

The idea of marriage contracts in the UK is very much that they are something only for the extremely wealthy. This attitude should be changed. Such problems are best settled whilst the parties are in a rational state of mind. What better time to think about an equitable solution than before you start married life?

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN HARVEY,
Chaussee de Waterloo, 505,
1050 Brussels,
December 7.

Keep London red

From Mrs Sheila Thompson

Sir, The British Tourist Authority says (report, December 3) that London's red buses and the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace must stay to help Britain to attract its potential 24 million foreign tourists.

Our double-deckers are so important to the London scene not just because they are red but because all of them are red. They sail through the traffic like huge punctuation marks, bringing visual order and coherence, and a distinctive identity, to our streets.

Or they did. In these days of deregulation the number 19 is brown and cream and several routes are two-toned in green. It seems that a great carelessness is allowing London to be deconstructed.

Could not some latter-day Henry Ford have told the new bus companies to put their logos on any colour of bus so long as it was red?

Yours faithfully,
SHEILA THOMPSON,
18a Highbury Crescent, N5,
December 6.

Malta convey

From Mr H. B. Livingstone

Sir, The obituary of Rear Admiral Errol Sinclair (December 2) mentions his command of HMS *Antelope* during Operation Harpoon in June 1942, aimed at relieving Malta, but states that only two out of 17 merchant ships reached harbour.

I served on HMS *Liverpool*, torpedoed in the first major attack on the convoy (being later taken in tow by HMS *Antelope*), and am quite clear, my view being from *Liverpool*'s bridge, that we had only six merchant ships in our convoy, accompanied by 32 escort vessels of various sizes.

It is correct that only two out of those merchant ships reached harbour but to report that only two out of 17 did so suggests a disaster on a scale similar to that of the later ill-fated

A moral echo

From Dr W. E. Trevelyan

Sir, As I read the Chief Rabbi's compelling article ("Holes in the moral fabric", December 3), regretting the disappearance of moral authority and respect for those who should give it, I found myself several times nodding my head in silent but wholehearted agreement.

But... haven't I read something like this before? Probably 60 years ago? Ah, yes:

The bourgeoisie has stripped of its halo every occupation hitherto honoured and looked up to with reverent awe. It has converted the physician, the lawyer, the priest, the poet, the man of science, into its paid wage-labourers.

The bourgeoisie has torn away from the family its sentimental veil, and has reduced the family relation to a mere money relation.

Dear old Karl, of course. *The Communist Manifesto*, no less.

Yours faithfully,
W. E. TREVELYAN,
The Knolls, Epsom Downs,
Epsom, Surrey,
December 3.

PQ17 on the Russian run. Operation Harpoon, with six merchant ships, was timed to run from Gibraltar to Malta at the same time as Operation Vigorous, to come from Alexandria and the eastern Mediterranean, with 11 merchant ships. Perhaps that is how the writer obtained a figure of 17.

Operation Vigorous was not a success and had to turn back to Alexandria.

Yours faithfully,
H. B. LIVINGSTONE,
Manor Cottage, 21 North Street,
Beaminster, Dorset,
December 2.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Winners and losers in the Budget

From Mr Neil MacKinnon

Sir, Peter Riddell is absolutely right to "prick the post-Budget euphoria" ("Coruscating on thin ice", December 6). Apart from his comments and those of Mr Kaletsky ("No smoke, no mirrors, just loads of chutzpah", December 1), the press has almost universally welcomed Mr Clarke's Budget. Likewise, some of my fellow City economists have fallen over themselves in applauding a Budget which takes £40 billion in taxation out of the economy over the next three years.

If a Labour Chancellor had given this Budget, I doubt that the reaction in the press and the financial markets would have been so positive. In my view, Mr Clarke's Budget is bad for the economy and will undermine the Treasury's hope of securing their economic growth and PSBR targets. The degree of fiscal tightening that he proposes is unnecessary and counterproductive.

What is more depressing is the way in which the economy is, yet again, being subjected to violent policy changes. Over the past decade or so, the Conservative Government has gone from M3 monetarism (then abandoned) to the ERM (then abandoned) and from the tax cuts of the Thatcher-Lawson years to the massive tax increases of the Lamont and Clarke chancellors.

Is it any wonder that Britain's economic performance leaves a lot to be desired?

Yours sincerely,
NEIL MACKINNON
(Chief Economist),
Citibank Europe,
PO Box 78, 336 Strand, WC2,
December 6.

From Ms Caroline Bingham

Sir, With the collapse — not reform — of the welfare state, as Mary Ann Sieghart describes it ("I know-best generation claims the soul of the nanny state", December 3), life "may be more exciting, but it will also be more frightening. The dependent society is dying, the independent society is taking its place". In other words, let the Devil take the hindmost.

Historians of the future will honour the welfare state as a visionary though short-lived attempt by the State to provide a decent standard of life for its old and unfortunate citizens.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE BINGHAM,
164 Regent's Park Road, NW1,
December 3.

From Mr Grahame Leon-Smith

Sir, I am appalled at the Government's proposals to cut unemployment benefit from 12 months to six months (report, December 2). As in other European countries, people who have paid salary-related insurance contributions over many years should be entitled to salary-related benefits if they are unlucky enough to be unemployed through no fault of their own.

In Germany, for example, if you become unemployed you will receive 63 per cent of your last net income for

up to three years depending on your age (*Arbeitslosengeld*) followed by 56 per cent of your last net income for the rest of your life if you are unable to find another job (*Arbeitslosenhilfe*). Why should the British unemployed be treated so badly by comparison?

Any private insurance company which refused to pay out in the event of a genuine claim would be guilty of fraud, but governments can apparently get away with anything with impunity.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAME LEON-SMITH,
The Niven Suite, The Mansion,
Ottershaw Park, Surrey,
December 5.

From Mrs Avril Munson

Sir, The Chancellor of the Exchequer has announced his intention to increase duty on tobacco by at least 3 per cent a year in real terms as he believes that "the approach we are adopting in Britain is the most effective way to reduce smoking".

The Chancellor's job, in my view, is to look after the financial interests of this country — not to engage in social engineering. The effect of this taxation policy is quite simply that heavy smokers like myself will purchase our cigarettes in France.

Yours faithfully,
AVRIL MUNSON,
89-97 St John Street, EC1,
December 2.

From Mr R. P. C. Plowden

Sir, As a severely disabled person who is entirely dependent upon welfare for what little income I get, I am very resentful of all wasted public expenditure.

"Targeting? Let's go for it!"

Yours faithfully,
R. P. C. PLOWDEN,
22 Prince Edward Mansions, W2,
December 4.

From Mr John L. Jones

Sir, You reported on December 2 that the Budget had added £23 billion to the share value of British companies. Surely this is the answer to the Chancellor's economic problems.

They can give this amount to the Government, thereby almost halving the Budget deficit. This will cause a further jump in the shares; and another similar donation will wipe out the rest of the deficit altogether, at the small cost of one week's increase in share values.

Is finances now being in order, the Government can abandon the recently announced tax increases and go back to its claimed policy of being a tax-cutting government.

Share values will jump for a third time and everyone can live happily ever after. Or am I missing something?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN L. JONES,
4 Pinewood Close,
Eastbourne, East Sussex,
December 2.

Jobs for Europe

From Professor Ken Coates,
MEP for Nottingham, and Mr Henry McCubbin, MEP for Scotland North East (Socialist Group (Labour))

Sir, On Friday the heads of governments in the European Union are faced with crucial decisions on how to tackle unemployment. The British Government has produced a Green Paper, *Growth, Competitiveness, and Employment in the European Community*, which recommends a policy of deregulation in Europe similar to the one it has itself followed with such zest.

An analysis of the paper by a group of Labour MEPs shows that 14 years of deregulation in Britain have resulted in the loss of over 2.9 million full-time jobs, while only 1.4 million part-time jobs have been created in their stead. This represents a net loss of the full-time equivalent of more than 2.2 million.

The way to expand the market is not

to deregulate, but to redistribute income to poorer regions and people, and to generate employment to replace declining industries.

It is also important to reduce the time people are compelled to spend at work to earn a living. Britons work the most overtime, enjoy the lowest holiday entitlements and possess one of the lowest levels of skills in the European Union. Meanwhile, three to four million of their fellows are without any work.

If we shorten the working year and give people many more opportunities for education and training throughout their working life, this will make room for those excluded from working life altogether.

Yours sincerely,
KEN COATES,
HENRY MCCUBBIN,
European Parliament,
Rue Belliard,
1047 Brussels,
December 7.

A jazz great

From Mr Steve Voce

Sir, In his letter (December 4) Professor Sharp notes the fact that it was the custom of the jazz musician Bruce Turner to address everybody of either sex as "Dad".

He will, I am sure, appreciate Turner's logic when he composed and recorded a mambo, in entitled it *Dadbo*.

Yours faithfully,
STEVE VOCE,
15 Ashbourne Avenue,
Blundellsands,
Liverpool,
December 4.

Change of pitch

From Mr Simon D. Trevelthick

Sir, It would be most improper to declare rugby the national game rather than soccer as suggested by Mr Alan Overton (letter, December 2). Frankly, as any gentleman would concur, to grasp a fellow by the legs when he's in full flight is just not cricket.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON TREVELTHICK,
5 Severn Road, Maidenbower,
Crawley, West Sussex,
December 3.

Taking the chill off

From Mr Betty Moyle

Sir, Patricia Woods calls for the collection of unwanted furs, for transmission to Bosnia (letter, December 2). She will be pleased to learn that Oxford is conducting another "cold front" appeal this winter and is already sending thousands of warm coats to Bosnia, including furs.

Oxford no longer sells fur garments in its shops but will gladly accept them for the appeal.

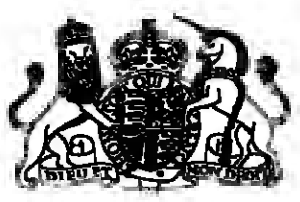
Yours faithfully,
BETTY MOYLE,
Calverton Cottage, Calverton Lane,
Calverton, Buckinghamshire.

Rare sighting

From Mr Colin Elliott

Sir, Chiswick in west London offers a companion to Mr Hickley's *rara avis*, the humped pelican (letter, December 1). There are signs that warm drivers: "Humped zebra crossing." Truly a horse designed by a committee!

Yours faithfully,
COLIN ELLIOTT,
Upwey, Tanyard Lane,
North Wootton,
Shepton Mallet, Somerset,
December 1.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 9: The Queen arrived at Leicester Station this morning and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Leicestershire (Mr Timothy Brooks) and the Mayor of Leicester (Councillor Henry Dumphrey).
Her Majesty drove to Leicester Royal Infirmary and was received by the Chairman (Mr Philip Hammett).
The Queen toured the hospital, escorted by the Chairman, and afterwards unveiled a commemorative plaque.
Her Majesty this afternoon visited De Montfort University and was received by the Chancellor (Dame Anne Mueller).
The Queen toured the university and honoured the Chancellor with her presence at lunch.
Her Majesty subsequently unveiled a commemorative plaque.
The Queen later visited the Avalon Community Education Project and was received by the Chairman, Avalon's Community Council (Mr Geoffrey Pool).
Her Majesty toured the building and met groups connected with the project.
The Lady Susan Hussey, Mr Robin Janvin and Captain Peter Hopkins were in attendance.
The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee, today attended a trustees meeting and luncheon at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London SE10.
His Royal Highness was represented by Sir Brian McGrath at the Memorial Service for Mr James Ireland which was held in St Columba's Church of Scotland, Port Street, London SW1, this afternoon.
The Prince of Wales, on behalf of the Queen, held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.
BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 9: The Princess Royal, Chief Commandant for Women in the Royal Navy, this morning received Captain Julia Simpson WRNS upon assuming the appointment of Chief Naval Woman Officer.
Her Royal Highness, Patron, National Association of Victims Support Scheme, later attended a meeting of the Advisory Board at Church House, Westminster, London, SW1.
The Princess Royal, President of Patrons, Crime Concern, this afternoon attended the National Conference "Women's Safety - Everybody's Business", BAFTA Centre, 195 Piccadilly, London W1.
Her Royal Highness, Patron, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, later visited Wandsworth Citizens Advice Bureau, 17 Ram Street, London SW18.
The Princess Royal, President, the Missions to Seamen, this evening attended the Annual Carol Concert at Guildhall, London EC2. Mrs Andrew Fildes was in attendance.
CLARENCE HOUSE
December 9: Air Commodore Gordon MacRobbie today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Commandant-in-Chief, Royal Air Force Central Flying School, upon relinquishing his appointment as Commandant of the School.
Air Commodore Simon Bostock

Luncheon

De Montfort University
Her Majesty the Queen attended a luncheon given in her honour yesterday, by the Chancellor, Dame Anne Mueller, and the Chief Executive and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Kenneth Barker, on the occasion of the opening of the Queens Building at De Montfort University. Those present included:
The Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire and the Hon Mrs Brooks, the Lord Mayor of Leicestershire and the Hon Mrs Freeman, the Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire and the Hon Mrs Neville, the High Sheriff of Leicestershire and Mrs Murray-Phillips.
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Leicester, the Chairman of Leicestershire County Council and Mrs Lucas,



Ray Wilkins, the former England international footballer, with his wife Jackie outside Buckingham Palace yesterday after receiving his MBE from the Prince of Wales. Others who received their honours included Anne Sewell, MBE, the British Red Cross nurse who spent 15 months tending front-line casualties in the former Yugoslavia, Alan Tiffin, MBE, former president of the TUC, and the golfer Michelle Walker, OBE

Birthdays today

Mr John Birt, director-general, BBC, 49; Viscounti Boyne, 62; Mr Kenneth Branagh, actor and director, 33.
Sir John Collins, chief executive designate, Vestey Group of Companies, 52; Professor B.W. Cunliffe, president, Society of Antiquaries of London, 54; Mrs Ann Glog, co-founder, Stagecoach Holdings, 51; Miss Rumer Godden, writer, 86; Lord Harris of High Cross, 69; Mr Nicholas Henderson, ambassador, 63; Mr Clifford Jarrett, civil servant, 84.
Mr Michael Joffe, MP, 63; Miss J.M. Kenworthy, principal, St Mary's College, Durham, 60; Mr Jahangir Khan, squash player, 30; Mr Nicolas Kynaston, organist, 52; Mr James McAdam, chairman, Sigmoid Group, 63; Mr Raphael Maklan, sculptor, 56; Mr Michael Manley, Jamaican politician, 69.
Sir Jeremy Morse, former chairman, Lloyds Bank, 65; Sir John Peel, surgeon-gynaecologist, 89; Miss Shirley Riddle, QC, 53; Mr Angus Stirling, director-general, National Trust, 60; Mr C.W. Turner, rector, Glasgow Academy, 60; Mr M.T. Wright, former director, National Heritage Memorial Fund, 57.

Awards

Sandford St Martin Trust
The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev and Right Hon George Leonard Carey, presented the Sandford St Martin Trust Awards for outstanding religious programmes on television during the past two years at a reception and luncheon held yesterday at Lambeth Palace. The Very Rev Michael Mayne, Dean of Westminster and Chairman of the Trustees, received the guests.

Memorial services

Mr James Ireland
The Duke of Edinburgh, President-in-Chief of the British Racing Drivers Club, was represented by Sir Brian McGrath at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr James Ireland held yesterday at St Columba's Church of Scotland, Port Street, Prince Michael of Kent was represented by Mr Jeffrey Rose, Chairman of the Royal Automobile Club.
The Rev John McIndoe officiated. Miss Christianne Ireland, daughter, read the lesson. Mr Martin Hone, Mr Keith Schellenberg, Mr Tommy Sopwith, Chairman of the British Racing Drivers Club, and Mr Jackie Stewart gave addresses.
Lord Alexander of Potterhill
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Lord Alexander of Potterhill was held yesterday in the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, Palace of Westminster. The Rev Stewart Hynd officiated. Professor John Tomlinson and the Hon Bruce Alexander, son, gave readings. Mr Stuart Machure and Mr Roland Smith gave addresses.
Mr Alan Cumming
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Alan Cumming was held yesterday in Southwark Cathedral. Canon Roy White, Vice-Provost, officiated, assisted by Canon David Rhyes and the Rev Nicholas Stacey, who said the prayers of thanksgiving.
The Rev Derek Baker and the Rev Christopher Byers read the lessons. Mr Alan McIntosh, Chairman of the Woolwich Building Society, and Mr C.H. Brooman gave addresses.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will deliver the Countryside Council for Wales lecture at the Orangery, Margham Park, Swansea, at 11.15.
The Princess of Wales will open the St Matthew's Community Centre at Meadow Row, SE1, at 11.00.
The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Butler Trust, will visit HM Young Offender Institution at Brighton, Falkirk, at 11.00; and as President of the British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, will attend Fringe of Scotland's gala dinner and fashion show at the National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh, at 7.30.

Reception

Lord Mayor of Westminster
The Lord Mayor of Westminster and Mr Anthony Bianco were hosts last night at a reception held at City Hall before the lighting-up ceremony of the Oslo Christmas Tree in Trafalgar Square. The Norwegian Ambassador and Mrs Elisavinda, the Lord Mayor of Oslo and the Secretary of State for National Heritage were among the guests.

Correction

Mrs Philippa Swire
In the memorial service for Colonel George Kidston-Montgomery of Southampton reported yesterday we incorrectly described Mrs Philippa Swire as Mrs Humphrey Swire. We apologise for the error.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS
Giovanni Guarini, poet, Ferrara, Italy, 1330; John Bradshaw, president of the judges at the trial of King Charles I, Stockport, 1602; Oscar Franck, composer, Liège, 1822.
Emily Dickinson, poet, Amherst, Massachusetts, 1830; Adolf Loos, architect, Brno, Austria, 1870; Harold Alexander, 1st Earl Alexander of Tunis, field marshal, Governor-General of Canada, 1946-52; London, 1891.
DEATHS
Paolo Uccello, painter, Florence, 1475; Edmund Gunter, mathematician, London, 1626; Rowland Hill, 1st Viscount Hill, general, 1842; Alfred Nobel, industrialist and founder of the prizes bearing his name, San Remo, 1896; Sir Joseph Hooker, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 1865-85; Saurindale, Berkshire, 1911.
Charles Reunde Macdonald, architect, London, 1928; Luigi Pirandello, dramatist and novelist, Nobel Laureate, Rome, 1936; Damon Runyon, writer, 1906. Cuba became an independent state, 1898.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.E. Aaron and Miss C.E. T'Anson
The engagement is announced between David Elliot, son of Mr W. Aaron and Mrs P. Noone, of New York City, and Catherine Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs George T'Anson, of Swanton, Leicestershire, and Sultana of Oman.
Dr K. Bashir and Dr G. Broster
The engagement is announced between Khawar, elder son of the late Mr Mir Bashir and of Mrs Qamar Bashir, of London, and Gillian Margaret, daughter of the late Mr Joseph Broster and of Mrs Eva Broster, of Stockport.
Mr J.W.H. Drew and Miss F.J. Fletcher
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs D.S. Q. Drew, of Little Eaton, Derbyshire, and Fiona (Bobbie), elder daughter of Dr and Mrs E.W.L. Fletcher, of Sandy Lodge, Old Headington, Oxford.
Mr H.E. Floyd and Miss L. Castillo
The engagement is announced between Harry, son of Sir Giles Floyd, Bt, and Lady Gillian Kertesz, and Leonor, daughter of the late Señor Sergio Castillo and of Señora Sergio Castillo, of Santiago de Chile.
Mr D.J.D. Rotherburgh and Miss B. Jung
The engagement is announced between Daryl, only son of Mr and Mrs Darrell S. Bean, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, and Baerbel, only daughter of Mrs Ingrid Jung, of Mettmann, Germany, and the late Mr Werner Jung.
Mr J.F. Grütter and Miss C.L. Tolley
The engagement is announced between Jürgen, son of Mr and Mrs Heinrich Grütter, of Accra, Ghana, and Caroline, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Tolley, of Maresfield, East Sussex.

Marriages

Mr T.D.B. Barlow and Miss M.E. Kington
The marriage took place yesterday at Chelsea Old Church of Mr David Barlow, second son of Sir John and Lady Barlow, of Bulkeley, Cheshire, to Miss Melissa Kington, daughter of Mr Andrew Kington, of Tarrington, Herefordshire, and Mrs Kathleen Kington, of Chelsea. The Rev P.D. Elvy and Prebendary J.T.C.B. Collins officiated.
The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Charles Aston, Otto Bruce, Eliza Haselrigg, Amelia Haselrigg, Emma Paul, Anna Halliday and Jessica Kington. Captain Michael Barlow was best man.
A reception was held at the Royal Automobile Club and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.
Mr G.H.R. Bondonnan and Miss C.M. Maitland-Robinson
A service of blessing was held on Saturday, December 4, at St Paul's, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, after the marriage on Friday, December 3, at Westminster Town Hall, of Mr Guy Henri René Bondonnan, only son of the late Mr H.M.E. Bondonnan and of Mrs M. Bondonnan, of Paris, and Miss Caroline Melanie Maitland-Robinson, youngest daughter of the late Mr J.W.C. Maitland-Robinson, MBE, MA, and of Mrs J.L. Maitland-Robinson, of Jersey. The Rev A.C.C. Courtald officiated and the choir was led by Mr J. Morgan. Mr J. Brendel was best man.
A reception was held at The Ivy.

Dinners

Bankers' Taxation Circle
Sir David Walker was the guest speaker at a dinner of the Bankers' Taxation Circle held last night at Cottens Centre, Tooty Street. Mr R.C. Bowden presided.
Durbar Club
Mr Marmaduke Hussey, Chairman of the BBC, was the chief guest and speaker at a dinner of the Durbar Club held on December 8 at Simpson's-in-the-Strand. Mr Narinda Saroop was in the Chair.

School news

Edgehill College, Bedford, Devon
The Governors are pleased to announce the following Sixth Form Scholarships and Exhibitions for September 1994:
Scholarship: Louise Sweet; Science Scholarship: Katrina Venner; Arts Scholarship: Heather Flavell; Languages Scholarship: Katey Kozarnietz; Music Scholarship: Gemma Charles; Home Economics Scholarship: Kirsty Mather; Science Exhibition: Charlotte Smith; Home Economics Exhibition: Sarah Heard; Exhibition: Lawrence Austin.

Appointments

Glass Sellers' Company
The following have been installed officers of the Glass Sellers' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr John S. Horne; Prime Officer, Mr Alan S. Miller; Renner Warden, Mr John G. Thorpe.

TRADE: 071 481 1982
PRIVATE: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313
FAX: 071 782 7828

Let the wicked abandon their ways and the evil their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, who will take pity on them, and to our God, for he will freely forgive. Isaiah 55: 7 (REB)

BIRTHS
CLARKE - On November 26th, to Frances (née Layton) and Martin, a daughter, Eleanor Mary Payer.
DAVIES - On 5th December, to Fiona and George, a son, Barnaby.
DYCKHOFF - On November 18th, to Sarah (née Skidmore) and Martin, a daughter, Isabel Amelia Louise, a sister for Lydia.
HILL - On 2nd December 1993, to Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Jo-Jo (née Macdonald) and Jonathon, a son, Gabriel Henry Follitt.
LEATHAM - On November 16th 1993, to Melanie (née Prynne) and Edward, a son, Thomas Aubrey.
MERLOTT CHITTY - On December 7th, to Nathalie (née Macdonald), wife of Christopher, a son, Rupert and a daughter, Anastasia.
ORATORE - On 7th December 1993, to Vincent and Helena, a daughter, Alexandra Clara. Many thanks to the staff at the Landis Clinic, St Thomas' Hospital.
PETRI - On 7th December 1993, to Helen and Charles, a daughter, Olivia. A sister for Florence. Many thanks to the staff at the Landis Clinic, St Thomas' Hospital.
SANTARELLI - On December 8th, to Rosalind (née Saker) and Stefano, a daughter, Margherita.
THORNEYCROFT - On December 8th, to Jenny (née Archibald) and John, a son, Charles, a brother for Hugo and Venetia.

DEATHS
ABRAHAM - Mrs Mary Margaret (née Strathmore), passed away on Wednesday 8th December, aged 82. Buried at St Andrew's, Bournemouth. Family service on Thursday 16th December at 11.00. Donations to Bournemouth Hospice. Inquiries to Mrs A. Smith, 10, St. Andrew's, Bournemouth. Tel: 01202 316523.

CHURCHMAN - On Wednesday 8th December, peacefully at home, Rosemary (née Churchman), beloved wife of Jack for 56 years. Buried at St Andrew's, Bournemouth. Family service on Thursday 16th December at 11.00. Donations to Bournemouth Hospice. Inquiries to Mrs A. Smith, 10, St. Andrew's, Bournemouth. Tel: 01202 316523.

DEATHS
ASTLEY - On December 8th, peacefully at home, George David aged 86. Buried at St Andrew's, Bournemouth. Family service on Thursday 16th December at 11.00. Donations to Bournemouth Hospice. Inquiries to Mrs A. Smith, 10, St. Andrew's, Bournemouth. Tel: 01202 316523.

DEATHS
BACKHOUSE - On December 7th, peacefully at home, John (Jack) aged 86. Buried at St Andrew's, Bournemouth. Family service on Thursday 16th December at 11.00. Donations to Bournemouth Hospice. Inquiries to Mrs A. Smith, 10, St. Andrew's, Bournemouth. Tel: 01202 316523.

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OBITUARIES

Danny Blanchflower, Tottenham Hotspur and Northern Ireland footballer and newspaper columnist, died yesterday aged 67, after suffering from Alzheimer's disease. He was born in Belfast on February 10, 1926.

TWICE Footballer of the Year in his thirties and capped 56 times by Northern Ireland, Danny Blanchflower lacked pace, his legs looked deceptively frail. He was not a firm tackler and nor was he even a great long passer of the ball. But he controlled games with his intellect, the ball seeming to home in on him constantly to be dispatched by his probing passes in the direction where it would do most damage. A player of great wit and resource on the field, he was equally fluent off it, whether arguing for new tactics in the dressing room or pointing out the ineptitude of soccer's rulers in his newspaper column.

Blanchflower began his career with Glenora in Northern Ireland before joining rough-hewn, second division Burnley in 1949 after a spell in the RAF, which also took him, briefly, to St Andrews University. The first of his 56 international caps followed quickly in 1950, but Burnley was not an ideal place for his talents; asking for a ball in training, he was told that if players didn't see it during the week, they would be more hungry for it on Saturdays. Blanchflower's reply, that he might not recognise it on Saturdays, only added to his reputation for being too clever by half.

His next move, to Aston Villa, a big club but apparently in a state of terminal decline, also offered little scope for his intelligent passing. Finally a move to London, his spiritual home, was more rewarding as—disregarding a bid by Arsenal—Blanchflower joined Tottenham for £30,000 in December 1954.

Even that proved not to be easy, however. The health of Arthur Rowe, the great manager of the 1951 championship side, was declining, and he was soon replaced by his assistant, Jimmy Anderson, who was unwilling to give Blanchflower *carte blanche* as his captain, and at one stage even left him out of the side.

Fortunately, there was consolation with Northern Ireland as Peter Doherty, a hero to Blanchflower's



generation, took over the national side. With Blanchflower as an essential side-deck, and a sudden flowering of fine players in the province, including Jimmy McIlroy, Danny's younger brother Jackie, Peter McFarland and Billy Bingham, and a brave goalkeeper in Harry Gregg, Doherty made Northern Ireland a force to be reckoned with, beating England at Wembley in 1957 and going on to reach the quarter-finals of the 1958 World Cup.

That year, with Tottenham also having a good season, Blanchflower won the Footballer of the Year award for the first time. There could no longer be any doubt about his inspirational qualities as a midfield general and as captain, and as he entered the twilight of his career, his

club career blossomed into vibrant, colourful life after Bill Nicholson replaced Anderson in 1958.

Blanchflower's partnership with Nicholson is sometimes portrayed as a love match made in heaven. It was never that, the dour Yorkshireman not always understanding the loquacious Irishman, and certainly not sharing his romantic vision. But after a prickly start, in which Blanchflower was dropped and asked for a transfer, which was refused, it prospered. Nicholson was a good enough judge of football to appreciate what Blanchflower could give to turn a very good team into a great one.

With John White, Blanchflower's creative ally, Dave Mackay, Cliff Jones, Bill Brown and, in the latter

period, Jimmy Greaves, they had a core of great players, but there was no doubt that the presiding genius, in what many believe was the finest British club side of all time, was Blanchflower. The team's appeal transcended the usual barriers and Blanchflower, in particular, thrived on and off the field, writing a *New Statesman* column and forming a friendship with A. J. Ayer, the philosopher and Spurs supporter.

In 1960 Spurs missed the championship, but in 1960-61 they became the first team this century to win the League and Cup double. Blanchflower's contribution to this double triumph being recognised by his choice as Footballer of the Year for the second time.

The following season, with the addition of Jimmy Greaves, they again won the Cup and were desperately unfortunate to lose to Benfica in the semi-finals of the European Cup. A year later that was partially rectified as they won the European Cup Winners Cup, becoming the first English side to win a European competition, with an exhilarating display, beating Atletico Madrid 5-1 in what was to be Blanchflower's swansong at 37.

For a time he stayed at Spurs as assistant manager, but he found little to do and a sabbatical had little appeal to his questing nature. Instead, he went into journalism, initially with *The Observer* and subsequently with the *Sunday Express*, a paper to which he lent distinction with his passion and satirical humour for nearly 25 years.

It was a sad reflection on football that it had no niche for his outstanding talents inside the game. In 1973, when Bill Nicholson resigned as manager and Tottenham sank to the bottom of the first division, the idea of rebuilding his great love, fired Blanchflower's romantic imagination, and there were suggestions that he and John Giles would take over as a duo. It was too threatening a combination for a backward-looking board, however, and it failed to materialise.

Instead, Blanchflower finally responded to the call of Northern Ireland, taking over in 1976 as his country plumb the depths in the mid-1970s. If the players were sometimes bemused by his team talks, they responded to his enthusiasm, and in his four years he began the recovery which was carried on so

successfully in the 1980s by Billy Bingham.

His belated move into club management came in December 1978 at Chelsea, then in severe financial trouble. It was not a success. Blanchflower failing to save the team from relegation. After nine months he resigned, devoting himself to journalism and his passion for golf, until reaching retirement age. That coincided with the arrival of a new sports editor who, to Blanchflower's sadness, made no attempt to extend his contract.

By then the death of his second wife had taken a lot out of him and, with arthritis restricting his movement, he lost a lot of his sparkle and from that point on led a surprisingly reclusive existence.

Danny Blanchflower may not have been the greatest attacking wing-half of all time, although there were not many better, but it is hard to think of a more influential footballer, as both a controlling midfield organiser and as an inspirational captain. His feeling for football was summed up in his most quoted aphorism: "People think that football is about winning. It isn't. It's about glory." A romantic to the core, he had a tangled, sometimes unhappy, emotional life, but as a sportsman and as an articulate spokesman for football he had few equals.

At times his taste for paradox and sheer love of words themselves led him into untenable positions, and he occasionally indulged in sentimental whimsy, but his ability to prick pomposity and hypocrisy was at the heart of his journalism, which did not endear him to officialdom any more than his outspokenness had during his playing career.

The wit and dazzling rhetoric hid a deep passion for the game and its values. Much cleverer than most of the people he came into contact with, including most football club directors and managers, Blanchflower retired behind the shelter of satire to hide the deep hurt and frustration at being hidebound and constrained by little men and blind prejudice.

Danny Blanchflower was married three times. He had been living with his daughter Stacy in Stanwell, Middlesex. For the past three years he had suffered from Alzheimer's disease. After entering hospital for a check-up he fell over and broke his hip. His condition deteriorated until he fell into a coma.

VISCOUNT SIMON

Viscount Simon, CMG, a former chairman of the Port of London Authority, died on December 5 aged 91. He was born on September 2, 1902.



LORD SIMON'S 13 years as chairman of the Port of London Authority saw the start of a technological revolution which was to re-shape and refurbish London's docks. He presided over the first changes brought about by containerisation and the growth of large bulk carriers, which were eventually to shift the centre of operations to Tilbury and other deep water terminals down river. Few could have been better qualified for the task. Not only was Simon an authority on shipping but his informal approach and liberal views well equipped him for coping with the social issues.

He made a point of touring the docks every weekend, meeting workers and listening to their concerns while his wife "Jimmy", a former ballet dancer, entertained staff in their flat at St Katharine's Dock. Their pet dog had a unique special pass which enabled him to "go walkies" around the moat at the Tower of London.

When he finally retired as the PLA's last full-time chairman in 1971, Simon took the unusual step of printing his Devon address in the staff journal. "Drop in if you happen to be passing" ran the invitation to his 9,000 employees, some of whom did.

John Gilbert Simon was the only son of the first viscount, Lord Chancellor in Churchill's wartime coalition and a leading figure in British politics for half a century. But his mother died when he was born and Gilbert (as he was usually known though sometimes called "J") by his family spent much of his childhood in Pembroke-shire with grandparents.

He won scholarships to Winchester and Balliol, where he read chemistry—because, he said, he had hardly been taught it while at school. His interest in scientific research was to stay with him. But he entered the business

world on leaving Oxford, joining the trading combine Mackinnon Mackenzie and being sent out to India as a manager. He stayed there until 1938, travelling throughout the Middle and Far East, before moving to P & O.

Simon spent the war working for the Ministry of War Transport, from which he was appointed CMG in 1947. It was not until the same year that he returned to P & O as their managing director. He was made deputy chairman four years later and continued with them until 1958, when he left for the Port of London Authority.

On succeeding his father in the viscounty in 1954, Simon sat in the House of Lords as a cross-bencher. After retiring from the PLA, however, he became an active participant in debates. He spoke frequently on shipping and related matters, including energy and oil pollution, and often acted as deputy speaker—sitting on the woolsack which his father had once occupied. He travelled to Westminster two or three times a week until he was 85, when illness first stopped him. But he still had order papers sent on to him, while his wife read him *Hansard* aloud until the day before he died.

Lord Simon met his wife when she sailed to Calcutta to teach ballet and they celebrated their diamond wedding three years ago. He survived by her and by one daughter and a son Jan—who now succeeds his father as the third viscount.

SIR DESMOND LEE

Sir Desmond Lee, Headmaster of Winchester College, 1954-68, died on December 8 aged 85. He was born on August 30, 1908.

DESMOND LEE was an outstanding figure in the field of education, whose academic career began and ended in Cambridge but which also included the headmasterships of two great public schools, Clifton and Winchester. A conservative by nature and a conformist by instinct—he was a notable opponent of the recommendations of the Labour Party's Public Schools Commission in 1968—he nevertheless reflected the predominantly cautious mood of the independent schools of his time, twice serving as chairman of the Headmasters' Conference.

Henry Desmond Pritchard Lee was the son of Canon Henry Lee and spent his early life in a vicarage, deriving from his upbringing the unobtrusive but methodical religion which pervaded his life. He was educated at that most Anglican of public schools, Repton, where both his headmaster, Geoffrey Fisher, and his fagmaster, Michael Ramsey, were to go on to be successive Archbishops of Canterbury. From Repton, where he was a scholar, he went to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, again as a scholar, taking firsts in both parts of the Classical Tripos.

A tall and striking-looking undergraduate, he was one of Wittgenstein's earliest and favourite pupils, even staying with the philosopher at his home in Austria. (He was to discharge his debt by publishing as his last book in 1980 an edition of Wittgenstein's lec-



tures.) There followed two years in industry in the north of England before he returned to Corpus in 1933 under the mastership of Sir Will Spens, a powerful influence on Lee's character and career. Within two years he was college tutor,

a post he held until 1948. He also became a university lecturer in classics.

During the war Spens, as Regional Commissioner for the Eastern Region, appointed Lee, who was medically unfit for active service, as a special assistant. Although the work involved seemed to him a somewhat pallid substitute for Greek philosophy, Lee acquired administrative skills which would later serve him in good stead. On returning to Cambridge in 1945, he became a member of the Council of the Senate and in 1948—as happened quite often with dons in those days—was appointed Headmaster of Clifton.

In 1935 Lee had married the daughter of an army colonel, Elizabeth Crockett, whose intelligence and administrative drive resembled his own, but whose vivacity and con-

suming interest in people offset in him a certain shyness and lack of small talk. (Even his children on winning a prize at a Festival of Britain sideshow in 1951, were delighted to discover that the doll they had been given was named "Dismal Desmond"—a nickname they promptly bestowed on their father.)

The late 1940s were not an easy period at Clifton which had been evacuated during the war. For all his slightly forbidding exterior, Lee's calm and measured administrative approach and his passion for accuracy in detail were very much what was needed in planning the college's future.

The metamorphosis of the don into the schoolmaster had been almost achieved when Lee was appointed to succeed Walter Oakeshott at Winchester in 1954. The change came at a difficult moment. Oakeshott's personal charm and versatility as a scholar and aesthete had won many hearts, but centrifugal forces had been allowed to exert excessive pressure. Lord Simonds, the warden, and Oakeshott, as headmaster, were known often to be at loggerheads, and a serious dispute had recently erupted over the resignation of a housemaster. Additionally, many elements of the school's administration were far too rusty to cope with the educational innovations which were soon to revolutionise even the most ancient of foundations.

Initially, Lee's abruptness of manner with strangers and reluctance to mix freely in the intimate, if critical, circle of the Common Room did not bode particularly well. But within a year or two both he and his wife had won universal confidence which was to deepen

into admiration and affection. His relentless zeal for administrative detail sometimes filled housemasters with apprehension at the prospect of meetings in the headmaster's study, but they often emerged from them considerably professionalised.

Over the 14 years of his headmastership at Winchester, immense changes were effected in buildings and the organisation of the curriculum. During these years Lee, who was knighted for services to education in 1961, was a member of the Anderson committee on student grants, chairman on two occasions of the Headmasters' Conference and an indispensable expert on secondary examinations. Nor did he neglect his classical scholarship. His 1955 translation of Plato's *Republic* (revised in 1974) has been, deservedly, one of the most popular of the Penguin Classics.

After 20 years altogether as a headmaster he returned in 1968 to Cambridge as a fellow of what is now Wolfson College, commissioned to undertake a detailed study of the relation between the academic level of successful entrance candidates at Oxford and Cambridge and their subsequent performance. Although this was useful work, meticulously handled, he was under-employed and became noticeably happier as president of Hughes Hall, a post which he held from 1973 to 1978, thereafter becoming an honorary fellow and, to his great pleasure, also being re-elected to a fellowship at Corpus after a gap of 20 years. He continued to live in retirement in Cambridge.

His wife, one son and two daughters survive him.

HUGH MOORE

Hugh John Moore, Commander of the City of London Police, died on December 4 aged 64. He was born on November 28, 1929.



COMMANDER Hugh Moore died only 11 days after being involved in a violent struggle in the street with a man he was attempting to arrest for suspected criminal offences. Although the post mortem showed he died from heart failure, he never recovered from the injuries he received in attempting to make the arrest. He had served for 38 years in the City of London Police and was one of its most outstanding officers.

His quiet manner and slow speech often disguised to the less discerning his sharp mind and phenomenal memory for detail. His courage and sound judgment in pursuing complicated criminal enquiries made him a very effective investigator. He joined the police service in 1955 after National Service with the RAF and the RNR. Once in the City of London Police, he rose rapidly through the CID ranks and served for periods in the Fraud and Regional Crime Squads.

The professionalism shown by the City Police in recent years in investigating lengthy and exceedingly complex international frauds, often using informants and undercover officers in difficult circumstances, was largely due to the guiding hand of Hugh Moore. He was in charge of many famous cases, including the mysterious

death of Roberto Calvi, who had been known as the "Pope's Banker", and was found hanging under Blackfriars Bridge in 1982.

It was Hugh Moore who directed the planning and implementation of the anti-terrorist policies to combat the recent terrorist outrages in the City, and he did this in his own characteristic meticulous manner.

Although he did not enjoy good health in recent years, he often worked long hours in a condition in which many lesser men would have given up. This was particularly evident at the scenes of the massive bombs at St Mary Axe and Bishopsgate.

On 11 occasions he was commended by successive commissioners and judges for outstanding police work. In 1992 he was awarded the Queen's Police Medal for distinguished service.

He leaves his widow and a son.

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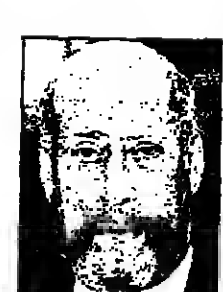
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British lead
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Mrs T in a tutu?
Ballet beyond
The Nutcracker



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Clement Freud
watches the
ice maidens

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MOTORING
INDUSTRY**
Pages 38-41

THE TIMES

FRIDAY DECEMBER 10 1993

Ministers seek reform of newspaper sales

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government yesterday announced "fundamental reforms" to the supply of national newspapers after an official enquiry found that a complex monopoly operates in favour of newspaper wholesalers against the public interest.

At the same time, however, the Government signalled that it would welcome voluntary proposals from the industry aimed at increasing competition, and talks will take place shortly between newspaper publishers, wholesalers and the Department of Trade and Industry.

Neil Hamilton, corporate affairs

minister, said that it was "evident" from the report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that "the relationship between wholesalers and retailers has certain inefficiencies which are detrimental to both publishers and some consumers by restricting the availability of newspapers".

More than 12 million copies of national newspapers are despatched each night by publishers and distributed by more than 80 wholesalers to retailers for sale.

Because newspapers are supplied on a sale-or-return basis, the MMC said, their retail was virtually "risk-free", which prompted many people to seek to sell them.

wholesalers traditionally refuse to supply would-be retailers where they claim an area is adequately served. Sixty per cent of current applicants to sell papers are refused by wholesalers, leading to many complaints, which prompted the year-long MMC review.

The MMC concluded that this system constitutes, under the Fair Trading Act 1973, a complex monopoly that operates against the public interest, and recommended that, in order to ease supply restrictions without either pushing up prices or having sales outlets close, retailers should be allowed to pass papers to other outlets or to sub-retailers.

In advice to the Government on

the report, Sir Bryan Carsberg, Director-General of Fair Trading, underlined the MMC's view that this single recommendation might prove insufficient to remedy the problem, leading the Government to propose more fundamental reform.

The planned talks seem likely to centre on setting a minimum newspaper order size, which would ease publishers' and wholesalers' fears that supplying any-sized retailer would be uneconomic.

The MMC found, too, that while the newspaper publishers' display of cover prices and the setting of common retail margins also formed a complex monopoly under the Act,

it was not one which was against the public interest.

In addition, the commission identified a scale monopoly in the case of WH Smith, the wholesaler, and News International, publisher of The Times and other newspapers, but, in each case, the MMC said that these monopolies were not against the public interest.

Newspapers and wholesalers broadly welcomed the MMC report and the Government move - especially WH Smith and News International, which welcomed the MMC finding on their own market shares.

WH Smith said that it did not believe that the MMC's findings would have a significant effect on its

wholesaling, and that it would work with the Government to find appropriate voluntary arrangements.

While welcoming the MMC's report, David Mackay, managing director of John Menzies, said that his company was "disappointed" that the Government and the OFT felt that reform was necessary.

John Dux, general manager of News International, said that it was pleased that the Government had endorsed the MMC's findings that newspaper publishers' practices were, in general, not against the public interest, and said that the report would "allow us to move forward to meet the needs of increasing change in the industry".

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

**BUSINESS
TODAY**

BIG DAY



TML, the Anglo-French consortium, which built the cross-Channel rail link, this morning hands it over to Eurotunnel
Page 29

BIG DEAL

North West Water is to help upgrade sewers in Malaysia which at present reach less than half the 17 million population
Page 27, Tempus 29

BIG DEBT



Pilkington still has debts of £800 million despite the disposal of Solva for £200 million at the beginning of the month
Page 27, Tempus 29

BIG PAYOUT

The new-look GUS raised interim dividend by 16 per cent, but the stores group appears to have lost none of its caution
Page 27, Tempus 29

LIG to shed a fifth of its workforce

By SARAH BAGNALL

LONDON International, the condoms to photoprocessing company, is to axe 2,000 jobs over the next six months, reducing its worldwide workforce to fewer than 8,500. The job cuts will be in its health and personal products division, which produces Durex condoms and Marigold gloves, and represents almost 30 per cent of the division's employees.

Nick Hodges, who took over as chief executive from Anthony Butterworth in September, said the redundancies would affect all levels. "The number of people on the board will fall, as well as the number of people working in manufacturing."

The swingeing cuts form one strand of the group's attempts to restore profitability, the need for which was revealed yesterday when LIG announced an unexpected loss for the six months to September 30 and passed the interim dividend. A loss of £5.1 million

Cuts at London International Group will result in a big charge on full-year profits. Debts need to be cut, said the group, which announced a half-year loss and no dividend

replaced pre-tax profit of £15.5 million last time; turnover was up from £194.8 million to £197.1 million. The shares fell 37p to 102p on the news, before recovering to end the day 18p down at 111p.

In September, LIG warned shareholders that interim profits would be "severely depressed" and revealed that it was conducting a comprehensive strategic review. The results of that were announced yesterday.

Mr Hodges said the group planned to sell its entire photoprocessing division, along with various non-core branded products from its health division. This, he said, would leave the group focused on its core surgical glove, specialist glove and condom businesses, but retain other

products that complemented the core operations.

The photoprocessing division, Colourcare, made an operating loss of £1.1 million, against a profit of £0.3 million last time. Turnover fell by £1 million to £72.9 million, 37 per cent of LIG's total turnover. The fall would have been far greater if LIG had not won a large contract.

Mr Hodges said that interest had been expressed by potential purchasers for all or parts of the division and "we expect to complete the sale as soon as possible, within the next six months".

The health division fared little better, operating profits tumbling from £1.1 million to £3.5 million. Sales rose 2.7 per cent to £124.2 million, helped by strong demand for surgical gloves, which helped to offset a fall in consumer products sales. Sales of surgical gloves rose by 36 per cent, to £14.7 million.

No brands in the health division have been publicly put up for sale but "it will be a select number, making up a reasonable proportion of the division's turnover", Mr Hodges said.

Disposal proceeds will be used to reduce borrowings, which stood at £153.9 million at the half-year stage, equivalent to gearing of 137 per cent. Mr Hodges said: "With our brand strengths, which are not on the balance sheet, I think gearing between 50 per cent and 70 per cent would be acceptable."

The restructuring, completion of which is planned by the company's year end, will give rise to a substantial charge against full-year profits. The company said it might reorganise reserves to help future dividend payments.

Alan Woltz is to retire as non-executive chairman as soon as a successor is found. Mr Hodges said that was expected to be "sooner rather than later". He added that Mr Woltz's departure, with those of a couple of other non-executive directors, left the company with a completely new management team.



Growing for gold: Sam Jonah, managing director, expects the Biox "beasties" to raise output to 1 million ounces a year

Ghana gets the gold bug

FROM COLIN CAMPBELL, MINING CORRESPONDENT, IN ACCRA

THE phrase "gold bug" has taken on particular relevance for Ghana's Ashanti gold mine, one of the world's richest deposits.

Ashanti has been in continuous production since 1897 in a 120 sq mile concession, centred on Obuasi, and conventional technology long ago replaced bucket and spade methods. But the mine is now adopting bio-oxidation (Biox), a technology patented by Gencor, the South African mining group.

In many deposits, gold particles are trapped in pyritic minerals, and mere grinding will not release them. Biox, in simple terms, employs cultures of naturally occurring bacteria that "eat" rock.

The microscopic beasts have been "trained" to liberate gold contained in tough ores in four days. Biox is environmentally friendly and its use makes the handling of arsenic substances, associated with extraction, much safer.

Ashanti has spent US\$1 million proving bug technology works under Ghanaian conditions and John Clarke,

consulting metallurgist, says he is now totally convinced. Ashanti's Biox plant comes into full production in early 1994 and is the largest of its kind in the world.

The "gold bugs" replicate themselves and need special care. They should not eat too much (or they give up working), they require a constant 35 to 40 degrees centigrade temperature and need strict acidity levels.

Ashanti is cagey about how

the beasts arrived on site. The first beaker was probably baby-sat on an plane from Johannesburg. Dr Clarke said the bugs arrived inert and had to be "woken up".

Ashanti now has to ensure that they "keep on jumping high", he added.

Out of Africa there is always something new; bug technology should ensure Ashanti realises its target of becoming a 1 million ounce-a-year producer by 1996.

VW group raises loss estimate to DM2.3bn

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

VOLKSWAGEN, Europe's biggest carmaker, has raised its estimate of 1993 group losses by DM300 million to DM2.3 billion, but the rapidly restructuring company is still considering keeping its dividend unchanged at DM2.

Slack demand in key markets, including Germany, its

home base, will mean a 10 per cent drop in sales, Ferdinand Piech, the management board chairman said. Only last month he forecast a loss of DM2 billion, blaming SEAT, VW's Spanish subsidiary, for the whole loss.

Werner Schmidt, the finance director, said VW's parent company profit this year would be DM60 million to 80 million, down from DM132 million last year. Group profit last year was DM147 million. Herr Schmidt said a payout of DM2 on this year's results would cost the company about DM66 million.

Herr Piech remained confident that the shift to a four-day week next year at VW's German plants, plus a series of tough cost-cutting measures, will enable VW to break even after tax in 1994.

Group investment is to be raised to DM55 billion next year from the severely reduced DM5 billion this year. Herr Piech said VW's parent company had been operating in the black since July.

Ferranti receivers announce first 630 redundancies

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

FERRANTI International's receivers yesterday announced that more than 630 workers are to be made redundant at the struggling electronics group, and gave warning that more are likely to follow.

The job losses - some of which will take effect today - were signalled yesterday when receivers from Arthur Andersen, the accountancy group, met union leaders. The present wave of jobs losses affects 11 Ferranti sites around the country, with the worst-hit at Oldham, where 298 employees will be made redundant.

In a letter to workers, the receivers said the redundancies would be implemented today to reduce the workforce to levels that management believe are "appropriate to existing levels of business".

The receivers, who were called in last week after GEC withdrew its offer to buy Ferranti, said that further job

losses were likely. "Whether further redundancies will be required will depend on the level of support received from our customers. We cannot continue work on loss-making contracts. In such cases, if terms cannot be re-negotiated or there is some other reason work cannot continue, this will have an impact on future headcount levels."

The receivers insisted they had no other choice; if the redundancies were not implemented, the company would not be able to trade in receivership and would have to close with the loss of all the jobs.

The job cuts drew angry responses from unions. Paul Gallagher, of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union, said the cuts were "a bitter pill to swallow, especially as the Government could easily have saved these jobs by awarding outstanding Ministry of Defence contracts to Ferranti."

STOCK MARKET		THE POUND		GOLD	
FT-SE 100 3271.6 -5.8	DOW JONES 3746.26 +11.73 Midday trading figure	Dm 2.5485 -0.0044	US \$ 1.4947 -0.0033	\$322.85 per oz.	BRENT CRUDE \$13.60 per barrel (Jan) 6pm

LONDON CLOSING PRICES MARKETS IN DETAIL, PAGE 28, SHARE PRICES PAGE 31

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Lloyd's sets new voting rights

By Sarah Bagnall
Insurance Correspondent

THE ruling council of Lloyd's of London has approved transitional voting rights for members, reflecting introduction of corporate capital next month. David Rowland, re-elected chairman, yesterday unveiled rules expected to last three years until Lloyd's adopts voting rights directly corresponding to names' capacities. Under interim arrangements, individual names' combined voting power will be calculated by their combined contribution to total capital — including open-year and run-off capacity — and be allocated on a "one member, one vote" basis. Corporate names' combined voting power will depend on their combined contribution to total capital, and be allocated to each member proportionate to capacity. The change was made after corporate capital representatives would be unhappy if their capacity were not reflected in voting strength. Corporate members are providing more than £1.6 billion capacity next year. Individual names could provide up to £10 billion. The Lloyd's syndicate Cuthbert Heath 404 is considering passing a report on its losses to the Serious Fraud Office. The syndicate, unlike Cuthbert Heath 1084, is highly unlikely to advise its names to accept Lloyd's settlement offer, which it says represents a tiny proportion of names' losses.

Letters, page 29

North West Water joins £1.5bn Malaysia project

By Carl Mortished

NORTH West Water is to take part in a £1.5 billion project to upgrade Malaysia's sewerage system over the next 25 years. The deal, signed yesterday by the Warrington-based company, is its largest international sewerage project.

North West, which also announced a 6 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £138 million, is already participating in projects in Mexico, Australia, the Bahamas, Thailand and Macau.

The company is putting up an initial £6 million for a 25 per cent stake in the project alongside leading Malaysian pension funds, the Malaysian conglomerate Berjaya Industrial Berhad, and AIMS Worldwide. Only 46 per cent of Malaysia's population of 17 million is connected to the sewerage system. North West will provide design and operational services as well as taking an equity interest in the project. The system is expected to generate revenues of £6 billion over the next 25 years.

A 16 per cent surge in North West's earnings per share to 39.3p underpins a 7.6 per cent rise to 1.77p in the half year dividend. Sir Desmond Pitcher, chairman, said that the utility business had performed strongly in the six months to September 30, with a 16 per cent rise in operating profit to £168 million. Turnover from the water and sewerage business rose 7 per cent to £370 million after a rise of about 8

per cent in bills to customers last year. A change in approach to bad debts, which totalled £8 million at the end of September, led to 50 disbursements, compared with 500 for the whole of last year.

Sir Desmond said he expected the successor to Bob Thian, who resigned as chief executive last month, to be appointed in six months' time. Sir Desmond said there had been a clash of management styles with Mr Thian, who favoured a highly centralised approach.

He said that imposition of a lower "K" factor next year (the amount by which bills can rise ahead of inflation) could put pressure on the regulated business. Expansion of the non-regulated side was aimed at making up the shortfall in earnings growth. "We want the non-regulated businesses to generate 10 per cent of the profits over the medium to long term," he said.

In the half year, profits from the non-regulated businesses more than halved from £7 million to £3.2 million because of a fall in sales of process equipment in America. International operations made a £200,000 contribution to profit. North West hopes to make £25 million to £30 million a year from its non-core business when its international operations start to deliver management fees and dividends in five years' time.

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Sir Desmond Pitcher unveiled profits up 6 per cent

MPs call for access to Scotbus sale files

By A Correspondent

MPs have demanded that files on the sale of Scottish Bus Group, three years ago, be opened for scrutiny following confirmation that the Treasury received £150 million from the group's pension fund when it was privatised.

Brian Wilson, Labour transport spokesman, said: "I have consistently argued that the assets of the Scottish Bus Group were disposed of at scandalously low prices. In the run-up to privatisation, the accounts of the various companies in the group failed to reflect their true profitability and value. Yet it was on the basis of these figures that the group was privatised." He said the Secretary of State for Scotland should make available all papers on the sale.

Michael Stern, a Tory member of the powerful Public Accounts Committee which quizzed civil servants on the sale last night, said he was "deeply concerned" with certain aspects of the sale.

Mr Stern, an accountant before entering the Commons, said alarm bells started to ring as soon as he saw the report on the sale of the group. He said: "The fact is that the way in which the sale was done, some of the financial transactions which took place before, during and after the sale, made me very worried, and I have called for a lot more papers to try to dig into this much more deeply. I can't help thinking that there's a lot of this story which has not yet been told."

Lautro alters guidelines on emerging markets

THE Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) has laid down stricter guidelines for life offices and unit trust companies selling emerging markets funds and products offering high income, after concern that some companies were issuing misleading marketing literature to investors. Under the new guidelines, companies selling high-income products will have to define what is meant by terms like "income" and "guarantee" as well as explaining the risks involved. Projections of possible investment growth will have to be based on Lautro's prescribed growth rates of 5 per cent and 10 per cent, to illustrate the uncertain nature of the investment. Companies must ensure the most prominent rate of return advertised is that investors will actually receive and comparisons with other products must be fair. Those selling emerging market funds must make sure they do not give undue prominence to past performance where figures relate to short periods and narrow investment fields. They must spell out risks involved and indicate whether past performance figures reflect favourable investment conditions.

Conrad Black enquiry

THE Australian parliament has launched an enquiry into how the government allowed Conrad Black, publisher of *The Daily Telegraph*, to take a 25 per cent stake in the John Fairfax Holdings, Australia's oldest newspaper group. Mr Black previously held 15 per cent. Paul Keating, the Prime Minister, says he told Mr Black before the March 13 Australian election that he would take a more favourable view of his application to raise the stake if Mr Black encouraged fairer and more balanced reporting in his papers. The government allowed Mr Black to raise his stake to 25 per cent soon after the election.

BFTB bookings ahead

CHRISTMAS party bookings at Break For The Border Group, the restaurateur that came to the market in May, are well ahead of the same time last year, said Robert Gunlack, chairman, introducing maiden interim figures. As December is such an important month for the company, a trading statement will be made in January. Higher operating expenses left profits both before and after tax lower at £140,000 against £149,000. As indicated in the group's placing document in May, a single, final dividend will be paid for the current year.

Hartstone tumbles

HARTSTONE Group, the troubled leather goods and hosiery company, said a refinancing deal should be in place before a debt standstill agreement runs out on January 16. A combination of write-downs and a high interest bill saw Hartstone's pre-tax profits in the six months to September 30 collapse to £428,000 (£10.5 million). Earnings fell to 0.3p (6.7p) a share, and the interim dividend is being passed (2.8p). Debts during the period rose to £92 million (£67 million), as new management sorted out the finances. Interest charges rose to £5.4 million (£3.3 million).

Fine Art advances

A SHARP fall in interest payments to £2.9 million from £4.8 million increased profitability at the halfway stage for Fine Art Developments, the Bradford mail order and greeting cards company. In the six months to September 30, pre-tax profits rose 11 per cent to £5.5 million (£4.95 million), and earnings per share 7 per cent to 4.87p. The dividend increases from 3p to 3.3p. Keith Chapman, chairman, said sales dipped slightly in both the mail order and card and paper products divisions, but added that sales gains in the second half should more than offset the setback.

Rees to leave Lasmo

LORD Rees, right, chairman of Lasmo, the oil exploration company, is to stand down at the company's annual meeting in May. His decision follows the departure of finance director Michael Pavia, in October. Lasmo shares are suffering from the decline in crude oil price and the company's high level of borrowings. Lord Rees joined Lasmo in 1985 and in 1991 it acquired Ultramar in a £1.1 billion takeover.



Pennington, page 27

Kleenze pays again

THE dividend has been restored at Kleenze, the home shopping business, which returned to the black in the 12 months to August 31. Pre-tax profits of £1.06 million compare with a £456,000 loss last year. A 1p dividend has been declared, to be paid next April. Kleenze Homecare, the direct mail order business, more than doubled its profits, and a new £1.5 million warehouse will be completed later this month. Directors confirmed the group is to sell half of The Leading Edge, its retail subsidiary, to PowerStore Trading in January.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

BIRKBY (Int) Pre-tax: £581,000 EPS: 3.5p (4.8p) Div: 1.2p (1p)	Previous interim profit was £204,000. Turnover rose to £5.2 million from £2.19 million. Exceptional charge of £255,000.
ENTERPRISE COMPTON Pre-tax: £25,000 EPS: 0.02p loss Div: Nil (nil)	Interim results. Loss was £3.4 million in previous interim period. UK remains a difficult market. Trading slow in Germany.
EVE GROUP (Int) Pre-tax: £2.5m (£2.6m) EPS: 17.1p (18.3p) Div: 3p (2.7p)	Turnover rose to £32.9 million from £27.6 million. Difficult trading conditions continue to put pressure on margins.
GRAINGER TRUST (Fin) Pre-tax: £1.6m EPS: 5.4p (10.64p loss) Div: 4.05p, mkg 5.25p	Loss in previous year was £4.6 million and dividend was 5.25p. Net asset value has fallen to £2.85 a share from £2.93.
HICKING PENTECST (Int) Pre-tax: £1.88m (£1.65m) EPS: 8.9p (7.73p) Div: 1.55p (1.35p)	Turnover rose to £18.2 million from £13.6 million. Order books are improving and group is trading ahead of last year.
SCANTRONIC HLDGS (Int) Pre-tax: £1.59m (£1.55m) EPS: 1.88p (1.84p) Div: 0.843p (0.79p)	Turnover was £20.8 million, against £18.5 million. Operating costs rose to £19 million from £16.8 million.
STIRLING GROUP (Int) Pre-tax: £223,000 EPS: 0.06p loss Div: 0.55p (0.50p)	Previous interim profit was £1.37 million and earnings were 1.07p a share. Provision of £800,000 against property values.
TITON HOLDINGS (Fin) Pre-tax: £2m (£1.94m) EPS: 12.07p (11.89p) Div: 2.8p, mkg 4.2p	Total dividend in previous year was 3.7p a share. Turnover was £11.3 million, compared with £10.8 million.
TOTAL SYSTEMS (Int) Pre-tax: £12,330 EPS: 0.078p (2.85p) Div: Nil (nil)	Previous interim profits were £424,330. There was a £31,880 operating loss but investment income was £44,020.

GUS THE GREAT UNIVERSAL STORES P.L.C.

UNAUDITED RESULTS FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1993

HIGHLIGHTS

- FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN PRE-TAX OPERATING PROFIT IN ALL DIVISIONS TO £155.9m (1992 £133.7m).
- NET EXTERNAL INTEREST RECEIVABLE BEFORE TAX REDUCED DUE TO LOWER MONEY MARKET RATES WHICH BENEFITED TRADE £51.6m (1992 £58.5m).
- TOTAL TRADING PROFIT AND EXTERNAL INTEREST RECEIVABLE BEFORE TAX £207.5m (1992 £192.2m).

- PROFIT ON SALE OF INVESTMENTS AND PROPERTY, LESS CAPITAL REORGANISATION COSTS CONTRIBUTED A FURTHER £5.7m (1992 £2.6m).
- EARNINGS PER SHARE -

FROM OPERATIONS	10.3p	(8.8p)
EXTERNAL INTEREST	3.4p	(3.9p)
OTHER INCOME	0.8p	(0.2p)
TOTAL	14.5p	(12.9p)

- INTERIM DIVIDEND PER SHARE UP 16.4% TO 4.0p.
- UNDERLYING POSITIVE CASH FLOW £140.7m.
- NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE INCREASED TO £3.36.

UNAUDITED CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1993

	Six Months Ended 30.9.93 (Unaudited) £m	Year Ended 31.3.93 (Audited) £m
Turnover	1,390.0	2,810.4
Cost of Sales	905.6	1,774.4
Gross profit	484.4	1,036.0
Operating costs	(357.1)	(737.7)
Net property rental income	28.9	55.9
Net interest receivable	51.6	117.2
Profit from trading activities	207.5	471.4
Profit on sale of investments and property after professional fees of £2m, for the capital reorganisation	5.7	3.6
Taxation	213.2	475.0
Profit after taxation attributable to shareholders	143.7	316.7
Dividends	40.2	108.7
Retained profit transferred to reserve	103.5	208.0
Earnings per share		
- from operations	10.3p	8.8p
- interest	3.4p	3.9p
- other (see above)	0.8p	0.2p
- total	14.5p	12.9p
Dividend per share	4.0p	3.4p

Interim Dividend
The interim dividend will be paid on 23 March 1994 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 25 February 1994.

UNAUDITED CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1993

	Six Months Ended 30.9.93 (Unaudited) £m	Year Ended 31.3.93 (Audited) £m
Net cash flow from operating activities	241.8	539.6
Dividends paid	(101.3)	(101.3)
UK Corporation tax paid	(24.8)	(130.9)
Overseas tax paid	(15.3)	(21.6)
Tax paid	(40.1)	(159.9)
Investing activities		
Tangible fixed assets	(63.2)	(19.2)
- purchases	(63.2)	(19.2)
- sales	0.0	0.0
Fixed asset investments	(19.3)	11.4
- purchases	(12.3)	(11.2)
- sales	0.0	0.0
Decrease in bank and term deposits with a maturity period of three to six months	203.6	130.2
Net cash inflow from investing activities	41.8	129.0
Financing		
Repayment of debentures and loans	(9.1)	(2.1)
Principal payments under capital leases	(5.7)	(7.9)
Net cash outflow from financing	(14.8)	(10.0)
Movement in cash and cash equivalents	268.8	358.6
Reconciliation to trading cash flow	107.8	328.2
Underlying trading cash flow	140.7	214.5

UNAUDITED MOVEMENT IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

	Six Months Ended 30.9.93 (Unaudited) £m	Year Ended 31.3.93 (Audited) £m
Profit for the period attributable to shareholders	143.7	316.7
Dividends	(40.2)	(108.7)
Retained profit transferred to reserve	103.5	208.0
Profit for the period attributable to shareholders	103.5	208.0
Current year contribution to reserves	(17.4)	19.9
Revaluation of properties	(9.0)	(9.0)
Goodwill written off	(9.0)	(9.0)
Opening shareholders' funds	3,297.7	3,047.8
Closing shareholders' funds	3,398.8	3,297.7

UNAUDITED DIVISIONAL ANALYSIS SIX MONTHS ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1993

	Turnover 1992 1993 £m	Trading Profit Before Tax 1992 1993 £m	Net External Interest Receivable Before Tax 1992 1993 £m
Home shopping	818.4	780.5	68.5
Burtons & Scotch House	65.4	71.2	13.1
Overseas retailing	88.2	83.3	10.0
Property rental	-	-	28.0
Finance	-	-	1.3
Consumer & corporate finance, banking and business information	-	-	25.8
Inter-group interest	-	-	10.7
Combined	398.0	311.2	36.5
Edenland interest receivable	-	-	155.9
Profit before tax	-	-	51.6
Profit on sale of investments and property after professional fees for capital reorganisation (see UK)	-	-	207.5
Profit before tax	-	-	207.5
Profit on sale of investments and property after professional fees for capital reorganisation (see UK)	-	-	5.7
Profit before tax	-	-	213.2
Profit on sale of investments and property after professional fees for capital reorganisation (see UK)	-	-	194.8
Profit before tax	-	-	194.8

The full accounts for the year ended 31 March 1993 received an unqualified audit report and were submitted to the Registrar of Companies. The interim accounts are unaudited and are not required to be submitted. MINISTER WHO CALLS FOR THE SUBMITTAL

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□ Opening on the Sabbath will change the retail balance of power □ Lasmo loses another one □ ICD sees off challenge

Bloody Sunday on the high street

□ AFTER all the political excitement about changes in Sunday trading law, the studied lack of reaction on the stock market yesterday looked strange. Dealers reasoned that most big supermarket and DIY chains were opening on Sunday where they wanted to anyway. But the one certainty is that the likely change in the law will change shopping patterns substantially. Whatever was said in the heat of political battle, the drive to Sunday opening was not based on the big chains thinking it was a zero-sum game — that the same total sales would be spread over seven days rather than six. The increasing annoyance of law-abiding, such as Marks and Spencer and John Lewis, was testimony to that. Some strong advocates of liberalisation, such as Boots and Dixons, have also not generally been opening. The supermarket operators have gained by building sales at existing outlets as an alternative to costly new openings in ever smaller or more saturated catchment areas. But that market share has been won at some expense in double pay for staff, which would become a burden if general opening pegged back local gains. Economists have assumed changes in opening hours would not affect total retail sales. This may not be entirely true. In the non-food sectors, for instance,

big chains have lost potential sales to non-specialists, to markets, car boot sales and other "unofficial" traders that have taken some spending the shops regard as their due. Retailers could also gain at the expense of other more overt leisure providers. If total sales rise only insignificantly, however, something else has to give. Either some shops gain and others lose or, when everyone is free to open, pay costs per unit of sales rise — one reason discounters were less keen on deregulation. DIY sheds, now opening in lonely isolation, might well lose. Much the most likely outcome is that small shops will suffer: both the corner shops that gained disproportionate trade on Sunday and those that will not be able to afford to match Sunday opening by big non-food chains in future. The second best bet is that Sunday working premiums will eventually fall as competition from the previous non-openers grows. As with several supermarket opening, a few initiatives to end double Sunday pay will rapidly become generalised. Sunday opening is also

likely to become much more general in England than has been assumed because of the growing influence of shopping malls. Many of these have not opened at all on Sundays. In future, almost all will and any retailer with outlets in those malls would be foolish to keep its shutters down on what will surely become the second biggest shopping day of the week. In the short-term, margins are likely to come under further pressure. Further ahead, the big gainers will almost certainly be the big retailing powers that have so far been hobbled by obeying the old law.

Still sliding on the slippery slope

□ RIGHT from the start, shareholders in Lasmo rued the day, more than three years ago, that the oil explorer bid £1.2 billion for Ultramar, an ailing oil distribution and production group. Its own shares sagged under the weight. Once it had won, mainly because Ultramar shareholders were so desperate



for an exit, it started a long period of asset sales and debt reduction that is still continuing. The great idea of Chris Greentree, then Lasmo's dynamic chief executive, was to create Britain's leading specialist exploration and production company. So Ultramar's painstakingly built refining and distribution business had to go. But these were unfashionable businesses at the time, so prices obtained were not the best. If shareholders still had any faith, it was undermined by an unexpected — if necessary — accounting change that wrecked the profit and loss account. Dividends fell. Then oil prices fell back as the world failed to come out of recession. Soon there

was a tired joke about Lasmo. What do you get if you put two £1 billion companies together? Answer: One £1 billion company. After the further slide in Lasmo shares following a brief recovery this year, shareholders would be delighted if their company were still valued at £1 billion. Mr Greentree departed more than a year ago. The group's finance director went in October. Yesterday, Lord Rees, the chairman, followed this well-trodden route. Would that this could finally draw a line under the disaster story of what was once the North Sea's brightest winner. But it is not over yet. When the oil price was hanging around \$16 a barrel, Joe Darby, who has the depressing job of being Lasmo's chief executive, admitted that exploration budgets might have to be cut if things did not improve by the spring. Now Brent crude trades well below \$14 a barrel. Lasmo still has a future, rising production and some good gas assets and prospects. But it is a shadow of its former self. Lesson one: in the sophisticated world oil business, you have to have a

little genius to outguess all the big boys and win by putting all your eggs in one basket. Lesson two has been learnt expensively by many and should be learnt in time by a new generation. Managers build by small successful acquisitions then think they can do better by going for the really big one: it often proves the leap too far. Had Lasmo not won Ultramar, it might have been vulnerable to a takeover. Its shareholders can only dream that history could be replayed.

The sound of music at ICD

□ THE attempt by John Porter, son of Dame Shirley Porter, and Stephen Morris, a financier with a controversial history, to acquire indirect control of International Communication & Data, on the back of "borrowed" votes, duly failed. Yesterday's EGM, requisitioned by PSB, brought inevitable polls in respect of the latter's proposals that chairman David Cicourel, along with two other directors, should exit in

favour of PSB's chairman Robin Kingsland, deputy chairman Jonathan Self and Porter. Votes favoured the board on the basis of 58 per cent/42 per cent. Cicourel, who presided over the EGM/AGM, with not a little panache, pointed out that more than 80 per cent of "independent" shareholders, on ICD's register prior to the revelation of PSB's involvement on September 9, had supported the board. By way of contrast, 94 per cent of "independent" shareholders registered after September 9 favoured PSB's resolutions. The Takeover Panel confirmed yesterday that it has found no evidence of concerted party activity (other than already disclosed). That said, Cicourel clearly hears a noise which, as far as he is concerned, sounds suspiciously like music. Patrick Cannon, a solicitor acting on behalf of the PSB camp, attempted (unsuccessfully) to make much of ICD's decision to disenfranchise a 900,000 share block held, under nominee, by BHF-Bank. Cicourel's challenge: "Disclose the shareholder's identity and we will enfranchise the shares." No disclosure was forthcoming. Porter alluded to the possibility of purchasing further stock, while Cicourel reiterates that other suitors are knocking on the door. Hopefully, the front one.

Christian Salvesen increases dividend

By PATRICIA TEHAN

CHRISTIAN Salvesen, the distribution, specialist hire and manufacturing group, saw its profits excluding exceptional items increase by 1.7 per cent to £41.1 million in the half year to September 30. Dr Chris Masters, the chief executive, described the figure as "a creditable achievement" given the impact of recession on its main businesses. Pre-tax profits including exceptional items fell from £53 million to £41.1 million. Last time, the first-half figures were given an exceptional £12.6 million boost from the sale of an oilfield technology business. The dividend has been increased by 3 per cent, from 3.2p to 3.3p. In the distribution business, a strong US performance offset more difficult trading in Europe. Operating profits rose 7.1 per cent to £18 million. Dr Masters said that, in sterling terms, US profits were 37 per cent higher, in dollar terms they were up 12 per cent. He said the acquisition of Swift, which specialises in distribution for industrial customers, will add to the company's other distribution business, whose customers are mostly retailers. The specialist power plant hire business had "a reasonable performance", Dr Masters said. Its profits were 2.6 per cent lower at £15 million, but he said last time's figures had been distorted by a significant contribution from the Barcelona Olympics. Food services, where Christian Salvesen processes 30 per cent of all UK frozen vegetables and packs 40 per cent, was hit by poor summer weather. Overall volumes were 10 per cent lower, but the company said profits fell by under £1 million to £7.5 million. Dr Masters said the company would not be opposed to further acquisitions, and also plans organic investment in its existing businesses. He said the company's strategy has been to broaden the base of the business. The level of capital expenditure rose from £30 million to £40 million in the first half, giving net debt of £49.6 million and gearing of 16.2 per cent.

Pilkington keeps pressure on debt despite profits rise

By NEIL BENNETT

PILKINGTON, the glass manufacturer, is pressing ahead with further disposals to cut its heavy borrowings despite more than doubling its profits in the six months to September 30. The recovery in profits is being driven by rising prices and turnover in America. However, the group is being hit by the recession in continental Europe, particularly in Germany, where demand has slumped. The group's profits in the half-year rose from £15.1 million to £30.5 million. Almost all the gain came from the United States where sales of building glass increased 14 per cent. Regardless of the profit recovery, Pilkington is cutting its half-year dividend from 2.93p to 1.5p. But Sir Antony Pilkington, the chairman, said this was only to rebalance it with the full-year pay-out, which has been cut for two years in a row. Pilkington is still burdened with debts of more than £800 million despite the £200 million sale of its Sola glasses lens business at the beginning of the month. The group's trading profits were hit with a £41 million interest bill during the half year, up £4 million despite the fall in rates. Roger Leverton, the chief executive, said the group was still looking at several possible disposal plans to reduce gearing to 50 per cent, or £380 million, by 1995. Pilkington is considering selling a half stake in its Australian subsidiary, and is



Sir Antony Pilkington, chairman, said the interim payout was being cut to balance up the two halves of the year

also expected to sell its contact lens business once its profitability recovers. The group scored recent notable successes in both its building glass and automotive glass businesses in America. In building glass, it has pushed through two price increases, in June and November, on the back of strong demand. Sales to car manufacturers rose 6 per cent during the half year, while the sales to the

replacement market increased 13 per cent. Overall profits from Pilkington's American businesses jumped from £2.5 million to £15.4 million. The scene was reversed at Flachglas, Pilkington's German subsidiary. Prices in Germany slid by 6 per cent in the half year due to overcapacity while the 20 per cent fall in car production led to a slump in automotive glass sales. The overcapacity in continental Europe also affected the group's British sales and eroded most of the 7 per cent price increase the group tried to introduce in January. As a result, the company is shutting down one of its main production lines in St Helens in the new year to try to reduce the oversupply problem. Mr Leverton said the turnaround in Pilkington's American operations showed how strongly geared the company

is to an economic recovery. He added that the recession in continental Europe showed signs of bottoming out. Pilkington's continental operations will soon be expanded by its acquisition of a 50 per cent stake in Societa Italiana Vetrot, the Italian glass manufacturer, which will strengthen the group's presence in southern Europe.

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Efficiencies at GUS help boost results

By MARTIN FLANAGAN

TECHNOLOGICAL streamlining and improving consumer demand helped boost half-time profits at Great Universal Stores, the retailing and mail order group that has reformed its two-tier shareholder voting structure, and launched a new era of glasnost towards investors. Pre-tax profits rose to £213.2 million from £194.8 million, with earnings per share rising from 12.9p to 14.3p at what is one of the country's biggest, and previously most secretive, retailing empires. The interim dividend is 4p, compared with 3.44p. Richard Pugh, deputy chairman, said "individual efficiencies have begun coming through" against a backdrop of gradual economic recovery. Home shopping boosted profits to £68.5 million in the six months to September 30, compared with £56.2 million. The company said it had launched a drive to reduce paperwork, with 75 per cent of orders now received by telephone. Up to £70 million has been spent on improving mail order technology. Mr Pugh said the relaxation of Sunday trading laws would not affect GUS, as it had been trading in this way, in effect, "for a long time". He doubted whether retail operations such as Burberrys and Scotch House, which this time saw aggregate profits rise from £8.5 million to £13 million, would open regularly on Sundays. Stanley Pascoe, managing director of the division, said Burberrys benefited from returning tourists and ex-

panding demand worldwide, particularly Asia. Mr Pugh felt the recent Budget was neutral to retailers, and that one pivot of future progress would be the degree of consumer optimism when the Chancellor's more rigorous measures began to bite in six to 18 months. Overseas retailing profits rose £1 million to £11 million, while property rentals moved ahead to £26.8 million (£25 million). Profits from consumer and corporate finance, banking and business information moved up to £25.8 million (£18.4 million).

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Revenue of British Land rises

By CARL MORTIMER

BRITISH Land, the property group that in June entered into a £500 million joint venture with George Soros's Quantum Fund, boosted revenue profits from £11 million to £18 million in the half year to September 30. Gross rental income grew by 5 per cent to £73 million and the company expects further growth in income as guaranteed increases flow through from the first rent reviews on its portfolio of superstores. "The first instalments of these uplifts will be received over the next few months," John Riblat, chairman, said. Market estimates of potential growth suggest an annualised uplift next year of £5 million for the group. The group has spent £135 million on investments via the venture with Mr Soros, including a shopping centre in Basilston and offices in Edinburgh. Mr Riblat said that the market was continuing to recover, but that, in the longer term, it would be driven by tenants and not just investor money. Interim pre-tax profit under FRSS rose to £13 million, from £10 million, after capital costs of £5.1 million. The interim dividend rises to 2.45p (2.28p).

Compass is set for Europe

By MARTIN WALLER

THE fast rate of expansion at Compass Group, the catering and healthcare combine, has allowed the group to fatten pre-tax profits in the year to September 26 from £31.8 million to £41.5 million. Francis Mackay, the chief executive, has pledged that expansion will continue and will be focused increasingly on Europe following this sum-

mer's purchase of Scandinavian Service Partner, the first such overseas. Mr Mackay said: "Over the next three years I would be extremely disappointed if we have not gained a significant presence in the rest of Europe." This could come by purchase or by start-up venture. Compass pushed British catering profits ahead by 25 per cent to £30.6 million last year, while the healthcare side

rose by a less impressive 7 per cent to £13.1 million. But the latter business will have a boost in next two years from the opening of two new hospitals, at Hendon and Worthing. Compass, which potentially has about £90 million of unused borrowing facilities to go towards expansion, says prospects for future growth are excellent.

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Rain falls at Scottish Hydro

By OUR DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

LOW summer rainfall in the Highlands has knocked shares in Scottish Hydro-Electric, the smaller of the two integrated power companies north of the border. The shares lost 13.5p to 435p after Roger Young, the chief executive, said the low rainfall had cut output from the company's hydro-electric power stations and increased

costs; this had reduced pre-tax profits by £1.6 million. Even so, Scottish Hydro reported pre-tax profits up by £5 million to £45.6 million in the half-year to September 30 and a dividend rise of 10 per cent to 3.96p. Rainfall had continued below average into the second half, and hydro production was unlikely to reach the normal level budgeted for the full year. This would hit

profits for the year, but the company is emphasising this should not affect the final dividend recommendation. Mr Young was puzzled by the abrupt share fall, given that the figures were largely in line with expectations and that the company had raised no new factors. Analysts were inclined to trim current year pre-tax profit forecasts, which had been around the £172 million level.

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One of the huge boring machines used to dig two main tunnels and a service tunnel, totalling 95 miles. Work took 170 million man-hours

Tunnel visionaries lay on train trip into the future

Car commuters hammering in and out of London on one of the capital's arterial roads have recently been treated to an eye-catching but stomach-churning advertisement. A motorised billboard, yawning groggily in a manner queasily reminiscent of bad sea crossings, proclaims: "Next year there'll be a smoother way across the Channel."

Today, for the first time, a small sample of the British public will be able to gauge how true that is. A train carrying an assortment of business leaders, City figures and journalists will pass through the portal of the Channel tunnel and head out under the sea for France.

The beano takes place to mark this morning's formal handover of the tunnel by its builders, the Anglo-French consortium Transmanche Link, to its operators, Eurotunnel. The handover marks the completion of an extraordinary industrial endeavour and is a key step towards the start of services in three months' time.

Publicly, Sir Alastair Morton, for Eurotunnel, and Neville Simms, for TML, will stress the sheer achievement of the tunnel's construction. Privately, though TML will continue to be at the tunnel site in the final phases of commissioning, both men will be heartily glad that this stage has been reached and that one of the most tempestuous commercial relationships in recent business history is drawing to a close.

At many points since the governments of Britain and France announced, almost exactly eight years ago, their formal support for the tunnel scheme, today's train trip looked about as likely as — or a good deal less likely than — putting a man on Mars. Dogged by delay, abuse, threats and legal action, the relations between TML and Eurotunnel have taken on the characteristics of a business leader's nightmare.

Sir Alastair, in particular, has won an almost unmatched public reputation for aggression and difficulty, yet even those with grudges against him as a result (and they are many) accept that a project as exceptional as the tunnel could probably not have been completed without someone of his unswerving drive. A measure of his achievement is his co-opting by the Treasury — one of numerous institutions to have felt his lash — to head Kenneth Clarke's task force on generating private funding for large-scale infrastructure projects.

The tunnel's saga of disputes cannot mar its builders' achievement, says Philip Bassett

A fixed link between Britain and mainland Europe has been both a dream and a joke for centuries. The first attempt at a tunnel was begun more than 100 years ago, but work on the Beaumont tunnel, as it was called, was abandoned in 1882 after two years because Britain feared being invaded. (That tunnel, still there, had to be partly dismantled and filled in, to enable the modern tunnel to be built). Another start, in 1975, was also aborted.

In June 1988, the first drive of the real tunnel was started in France; in Britain, work began a couple of months later. On December 1, 1990, Philippe Cozette, a French miner, and his British counterpart Graham Page, with national flags in their hands for the cameras, broke through to join up the 15.618 metres of the French part of the service tunnel and the 21,770 metres of the English portion.

The figures for the project are astonishing. There are 95 miles, or 150 kilometres, of under-sea tunnel, which took 170 million man-hours to build. They are lined with 800,000 concrete

segments, each weighing up to nine tonnes. Twenty million tonnes of spoil have been deposited behind a purpose-built sea-wall to create a 73-acre recreational amenity area by Folkestone, on the Kent coast. There are 950 kilometres of overhead power conductors, carrying enough electricity to power a city of 250,000 people, and 1,300 kilometres of power cables. The French and English terminals alone are among the largest-scale construction projects of the late 20th century.

A price has been paid in human terms. Eight people have lost their lives and more than 1,300 have been injured on the UK side during the tunnel's construction, according to the Health and Safety Executive, though the builders have been more assiduous than is usual in the construction industry in reporting accidents.

Financially, though the actual building of the service tunnel and two running tunnels was completed on time, the tunnel operation itself will be a year late in opening for business. At least another £1 billion are still needed next year in a rights issue and from

Eurotunnel's 220 banks, so the tunnel's final cost of some £10 billion will be double what was originally estimated.

There remain serious doubts both about the volume of traffic the tunnel will attract, and the revenue it will generate. A recent poll suggested that many cross-Channel travellers remain sufficiently uneasy about the tunnel, despite both TML's and Eurotunnel's stress on safety, to be unlikely to rush to use it. Freight users may be equally sceptical.

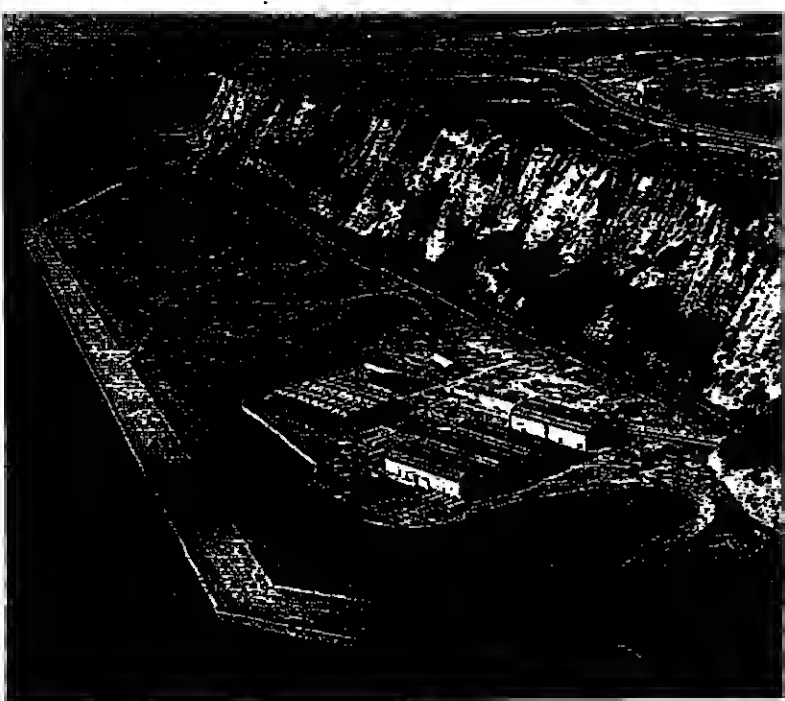
Given such uncertainty, revenue forecasts inevitably range widely. No authoritative independent estimates, however, envisage Eurotunnel's shareholders seeing any dividends before the next century.

Some City analysts see no profit for Eurotunnel until 2003, even on the most optimistic projections. Pessimists predict that losses will stretch on for another decade after that, with shareholders never seeing a dividend before Eurotunnel's concession expires in 2041.

Sir Alastair and Mr Simms will both strike more optimistic notes when they complete the handover of the tunnel in Folkestone this morning. On March 7, Le Shuttle freight services — initially, two an hour in each direction at peak times — are due to begin. Tourist services are set to start when the tunnel is formally opened on May 6 by the Queen and President Mitterrand. Eurostar services from the new terminal at London's Waterloo Station are scheduled from the following month.

Disputes still abound in a project characterised by them. That is unsurprising, given the extraordinarily complex nature of the undertaking, starting with the achievement of getting the British and French to work together. There have been worrying signals such as yesterday's one-day strike over jobs by SNCF railway workers in France. Nevertheless, French high-speed trains are set to deliver passengers to the French portal at Sangatte, while confusion still surrounds the UK rail link.

Today, such arguments are likely to be far from people's minds as the first train to carry passengers not involved with the tunnel's construction heads into the Kent portal. Self-deprecation is a British characteristic; but as the UK train emerges in France, a burst of mutual Anglo-French self-congratulation at such an astounding achievement — the greatest European industrial project in modern times — would be appropriate.



Millions of tonnes of spoil have created 73 acres of new land by Folkestone

TEMPUS A glass act

THE market has become so accustomed to large rights issues from building material companies that it was astonished when Pilkington failed to issue the expected cash call with its half-year figures. Unlike some others, Pilkington is determined to dig itself out of debt without expanding its equity base.

A wise decision, given the slow pace in the group's building and automotive markets. The recession in continental Europe has depressed prices again just as the group seemed to have survived the worst of the downturn in Britain. The last thing the group's cash flow needs is a further strain from a larger dividend commitment.

But Roger Leverton, the chief executive, has shown he can fulfil his promise to cut gearing to 50 per cent by 1995. The sale of Sola alone has cut it to 67 per cent, while the group

should be cash generative this year, the first time since 1989. If the American business continues to improve he may even reach his target without selling a half stake in the Australian business, as he plans.

Pilkington has cut £100 million out of its cost base in the last 18 months. The speed of the turnaround in America, on the back of a very modest rise in volume and prices, is an indication of how dramatically the group's profits will recover when the European economy improves. But the overcapacity and margin pressure in the European market will not evaporate overnight. While Pilkington's profits may reach £125 million in 1994-95, their shares are trading on 22 times next year's earnings, showing that the market already assumes Mr Leverton can deliver on all his promises.

LIG

THE downfall of London International Group is a reminder that even a company with a world-renowned product can mess itself up completely. Most pharmaceutical companies must dream of owning a generic product like Durex, which commands high margins but still has a world market share of up to 40 per cent.

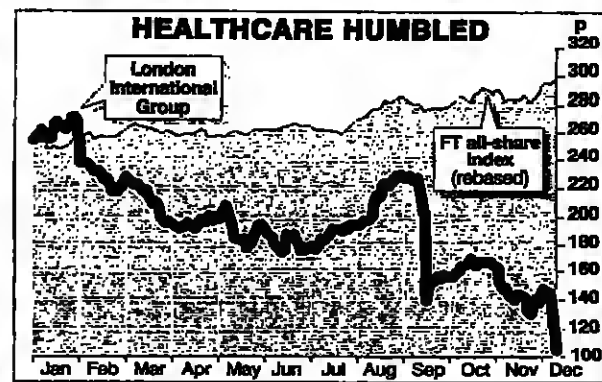
LIG's downfall has been its obsessive diversification. Repeated acquisitions with attached provisions have ensured that cash has persistently drained from the business, keeping debts high. When trading worsened, the house of cards caved in.

The new management team must now dig themselves out of this mire. The reorganisation provision at the end of the year could be £50 million or more, pushing

losses to £60 million. This will cut shareholders' funds to as little as £50 million, leaving gearing at more than 300 per cent, so the chance of a final dividend looks slim.

LIG's future rests on the success of the disposal programme, but it will struggle to find anyone willing to buy the photo-processing side for more than its £28 million

asset value. The sale of the other peripheral business may raise another £60 million, still leaving the group with the task of addressing a remaining debt of maybe £65 million with the operating cashflow from Durex. The shares have some recovery value, but only the brave would guess when that recovery may materialise.



GUS

ANY fear that GUS's decision to franchise its 'A' shares this summer was a sign of impending rebellion in this bastion of prudence was groundless. GUS's half year figures show that it has lost none of the innate caution which has served so well while less well-founded retailers were going down the tubes.

GUS's core home shopping business has long been considered counter-cyclical, but there is no evidence that the sluggish high street recovery is hitting its sales yet. The 4.8 per cent rise in the division's sales is more than some high street chains have achieved, since GUS is driving its catalogue sales by widening its customer base and enhancing its telephone ordering service.

GUS's management does not seem in any more of a hurry to spend the group's cash resources that they have ever been. Indeed, the decision to increase their gilt portfolio suggests that the group plans to stay cash rich for the foreseeable future. GUS did invest £50 million in

retail property, but that hardly denied an underlying cash flow of £141 million.

The most heartening feature of the figures was the 16 per cent rise in the dividend, showing that GUS really does mean better by its shareholders than of old. Even so, the current year yield is unlikely to be more than 2.8 per cent, suggesting that outperformance of the shares has gone far enough.

growth in the numbers who have health insurance of 50 per cent to 10 million by the year 2000. The shares, overlooked of late, sell on less than 15 times this year's earnings, which does not look expensive. Further expansion into Europe, as expected, will have to be carried out with some caution.

NW Water

NORTH West Water has been more successful than most at winning contracts in far-off places, but the company has so far revealed little about terms, nor the likely size and timing of the payoff. North West, like its peers, needs unregulated income. Having trimmed the workforce by about 3,000 over four years, the likely gain in margin from further reductions in the cost base is questionable, as the company contemplates the cost of using new technology to link its widespread infrastructure. But the ambition to create 10 per cent of the group's annual profits of £250 million from businesses generating only £3 million in a half year looks wishful thinking.

Compass

THE fall in margins at Compass's core catering business from 9.6 per cent to 7.7 per cent should not be seen as a weakness but as an opportunity, resulting as it does from dilution caused by the many acquisitions the group has bolted on over the past year. Indeed, margins within the continuing business remain unchanged, and it is this level that the management wants to impose on the newcomers.

Healthcare, the second leg, is being squeezed both by recession and by the health insurance companies that have had a particularly rough time. But Compass can take comfort from the projected

Settlement at Lloyd's

From H. H. Marcus
Sir, The Lloyd's proposal to settle the losses suffered by Names has been carefully prepared, but it fails to cap future losses and is therefore unacceptable to most.

Names face a difficult dilemma. If they reject the inadequate offer, Lloyd's is likely to go under and total chaos will destroy the victims of incompetence and negligence.

If the offer is accepted, the open-year syndicates can take away with one hand what has been given by the other by declaring new deterioration of the accounts. Nothing short of capping, even at a price, will help. It happened in the case of the Outward Settlement, where immediately after the handout a new loss of 60 per cent of the investment was declared and payment demanded.

However, a word of warning must be added: Some hard pressed and dispirited Names might want to pick up the crumbs thrown at them and by so doing forgo the right to litigate in the courts.

This will reduce the number of potential plaintiffs and throw greater financial burdens on the other members of the numerous action groups. The experience of past years seems to demonstrate that the lions have done better than the sheep. I am sure someone will pick up the pieces in the end.

Yours sincerely,
H. H. MARCUS,
4 Regency Terrace,
Fulham Road,
SW7.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax to 071-762 5112.

COLIN NARBROUGH

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Good tidings for Govan

BRITAIN'S biggest commercial shipbuilder, the London-listed Norwegian group Kvaerner, sailed in with its seasonal good tidings yesterday at its Julebord Christmas lunch at its offices in St James's. Erik Tønseth, Kvaerner's unpretentious chief executive, was clearly pleased to announce that all his UK operations are now in profit. This means that even Govan, the once moribund Clyde-side shipyard, has finally made it back into the black. Already employing 4,000 people in Britain, Tønseth says he intends to increase activities over here, and that means more acquisitions, probably in the first half of next year. As Kvaerner is hardly likely to want any more shipbuilding capacity this side of the North Sea, Tønseth's keen Norse eye is likely to be focused on offshore technology companies.

ProShare laurels

IF Stephen Dorrell was a little rushed in his speech at the

ProShare inaugural awards at the Dorchester on Wednesday evening, some in his 500-strong audience of businessmen were not complaining. For the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, after lavishing praise on his hosts for extending employee share ownership, he was excused in particular by David Sainsbury, a strong backer of ProShare, whose interests in the vote were not far removed from the eventual outcome.

Dorrell pointed out that 10 million people now owned shares in Britain, but that there was "still much to be done". Sir Peter Thompson, the chairman, was, however, keen to underline the importance of promoting best practice among companies in their relations with employees as well as shareholders. Overall winners were British Gas, for excellence in employee share ownership, and SmithKline Beecham, for excellence in services to private investors. Commendations went to BP,

Amoco, FI Group, BAXI Partnership, BTR, Guinness and Taunton Cider. Understandably, perhaps, the Financial Times won the award for the newspaper doing most for individual share ownership, according to a poll of all the entrants.

Pressing need

STANDARD Life says it is "keen to build a higher profile within the press" in its advertisement for an experienced press officer. The rest of the truth is that the company has a gap to fill. It is losing Jacqui Low, its present press officer, who on January 5 takes up what has been described as one of the loneliest jobs in the world — head of media and research for the Scottish Conservative Party. At the other end of the political spectrum, and other side of the media table, Edward Balls, the Financial Times' young (only 27) economics guru, is leaving Fleet Street to become top economic adviser to Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, in February. Employment, or rather the lack of it, is one of Ball's special areas of focus, and his skills will be much needed in

the great debate on this subject on which the European Commission, opposed by the British Government, has embarked in earnest.

Venerable worker

THE pace of City life these days is ill-designed for those wishing to stay at their desk until the age of four score. Yet, there are still those that manage it in style. Alfred Caplin, for one, puts in a full day's work at Smith New Court's mergers and acquisitions department. Caplin's secret is that he has little time for modern technology. Something of a genius in mathematics, he much prefers to work things out in his head. To mark his achieving the status of octogenarian, his colleagues yesterday presented him with a cake in the shape of The Times crossword, one of his long-standing passions. In his thank you speech, the venerable Caplin spoke of his intention to work for "many years" to come. After all, he believes that he is only third oldest among the old faithfuls still serving the City.

COLIN NARBROUGH



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Staff from IT companies can be of great assistance to the voluntary sector. David Guest on the employees who love to help

The job market in computing may be flat, but information technology skills are still in high demand in one unconventionally rewarding sector of the economy — voluntary work. Computer companies and organisations that use IT are showing a growing readiness to give specialist staff time off for voluntary work. In some cases, this stems from the initiative of individuals — in others, it has become company policy. The skills of IT specialists are highly prized in the voluntary sector, where the chief alternative is to employ expensive consultants.

Marco Piantino is the project manager for human resources systems at Grand Metropolitan Information Services (GMIS). During part of his work time, as well as some of his own time, he is also a consultant and programmer for the Hillingdon Association Voluntary Services, a local voluntary association in west London.

The organisation was doing jobs that were either already computerised, in a rough and ready way, or ripe for automation. There was a newsletter, for example, and the association wanted to be able to produce lists of potential donors from a database.

up," says Mr Piantino. "Then I looked at what they wanted to do and realised that their equipment wasn't up to it."

The Hillingdon group was, however, helped to update its system as a result of Mr Piantino's work. GMIS operates a "contributions matching scheme", under which the company estimates the value of a volunteer's work and makes a donation of that amount to the group being helped. The Hillingdon association put its money towards buying a new computer.

The benefits are not all one way. At Hillingdon, Mr Piantino gained experience of Microsoft's Access database, the system now in use there, knowledge that will be of use to GMIS.

Computer staff can of course give help in areas other than computing when they want to work in the voluntary sector. Carole Speed, the community programmes co-ordinator for Sun Microsystems, says: "Some of the projects we have been involved

in have been IT-related, but there have been a lot that are not. And those have been the most popular."

Non-IT projects to which Sun staff have contributed include children's parties, decorating old people's homes, restoration of a trout hatchery, Christmas-tree planting and conservation in a park near the company's Surrey headquarters. "We did use IT skills when we were approached by a local hospice

which had to prepare an annual report," Ms Speed says. Sun employs about 300 people in Surrey and at any one time 70 of its staff might be involved in voluntary work.

IBM runs a programme matching people retiring from the company to voluntary posts in Hampshire. The programme was set up at the end of 1992. Seventy retirees have so far registered with the scheme, and half have been placed with voluntary organisations. Some of these, have been at a senior level: for example, IBM has provided a chairman of Mencap.

But IBM points out that in these days of staff cuts and early retirement, its former employees are not always 60 or over. Some ex-IBM people also work as Citizens' Advice Bureau counsellors and business advisers.

The company also operates a scheme known as the Ten Per Cent Club where, at the manager's discretion, employees can devote 10 per cent of their time to community work. One member of staff worked as an assistant at a school for handicapped children. IBM believes that such experience helps staff morale.

This aspect is especially important, says Amanda Bowman, campaign manager for Business in the Community, which, with Grand Met, sponsors and organises the Employees in the Community Awards — accolades that Sun and IBM have each received.

Ms Bowman says: "Some employees see it as an opportunity to go out and be an ambassador for their companies. Also, with companies adopting flatter structures with fewer levels of management and fewer opportunities for promotion, it gives people a chance to develop through involvement in other areas."

From six entries in 1990, the award scheme has grown to 152 this year. Ms Bowman expects that there will be growing participation from computer companies. Hardware suppliers have always been prepared to donate systems, she says, but now they are more likely to provide training to go with them.

"IT expertise is highly prized," she says. "One of the things we used to hear was that companies would give computer systems to charities but that their helpers didn't know how to use them."

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INFOTECH

Mapping out the hot spots

Clive Couldwell
discovers how a
computer system is
saving vital minutes
for a fire brigade
responding to
emergencies

Every organisation needs to get information in a hurry, but none needs it more quickly than the emergency services. To be effective, a paramedic needs a victim's blood group details, a coastguard has to know about the local weather and tides, and a police officer needs access to criminal records. The fire service is no exception: it needs to know what it is going to find when it gets to an incident. And it needs access to that information instantly.

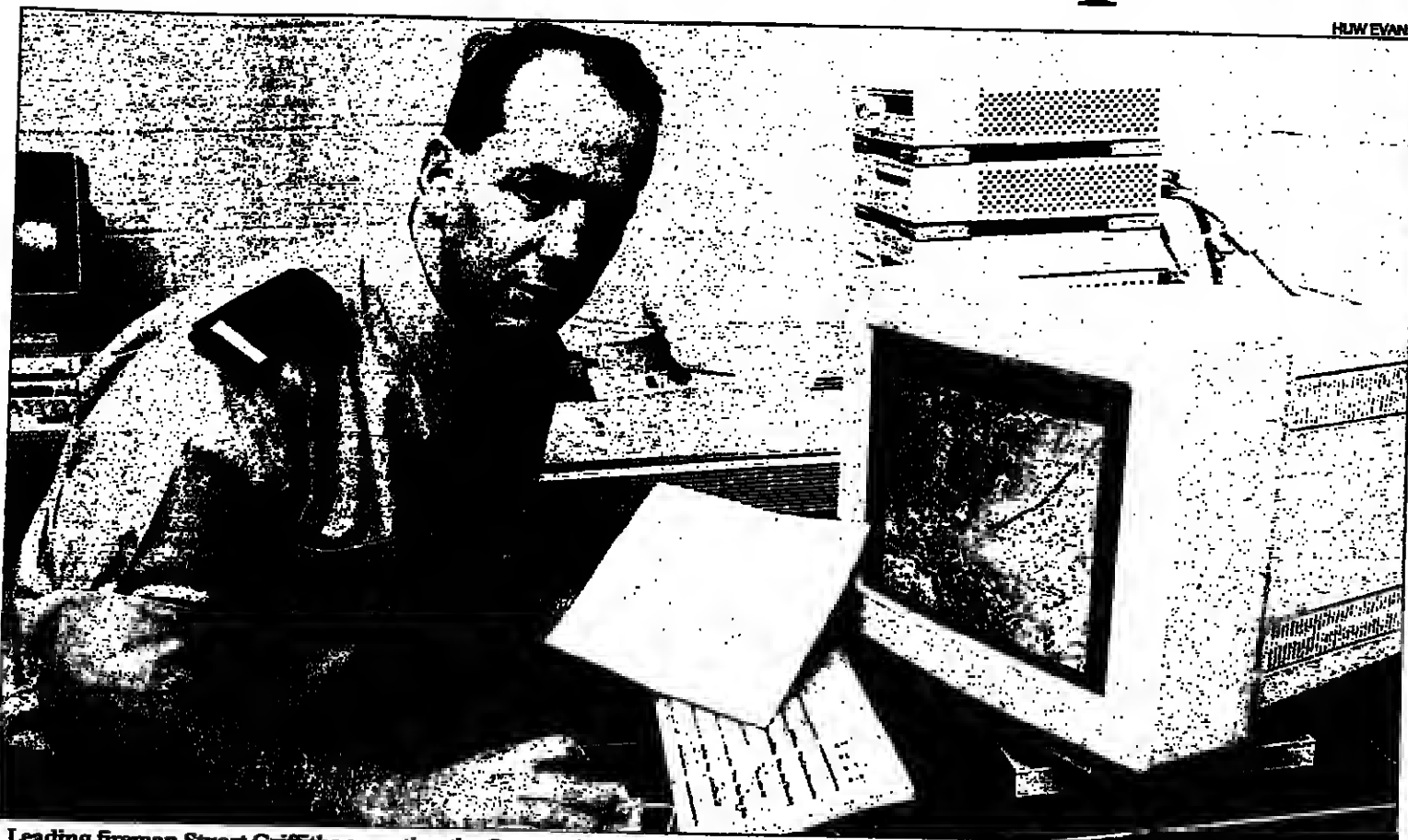
"When the fire service arrives, there's no time to have a meeting to discuss how to tackle a fire," says Terry Glossop, Gwent Fire Brigade's chief officer. "Whatever decision we make within the first few minutes of the incident will determine whether that incident is going to be tackled successfully or not."

Gwent Fire Brigade is the first branch of the service to use computer technology to make this information available at a fire. It has a Geographic Information System (GIS) — a computerised map on which large quantities of data, not necessarily cartographic, can be overlaid.

Gas companies use GIS to schedule maintenance work on underground conduits and local authorities use it to monitor traffic flow on their busiest roads. For the fire brigade, "the idea is to get useful information into the computer and let its speed and accuracy provide the firemen with the information they need", Mr Glossop says.

Among other duties, fire brigades are obliged to visit premises to check on fire safety: to log where hazardous materials are stored and to know where the access points and water supplies are. The gathering of this data — known as "1 (1) (d)", from the relevant section of the Fire Services Act, has been a statutory obligation on fire brigades since the big city fires of the Blitz in the Second World War. The difference is that today, there is far more of it.

Not just more buildings, but more kinds of buildings and more kinds of



Leading fireman Stuart Griffiths operating the Geographic Information System at the Gwent brigade's HQ, at New Inn, near Pontypool

hazardous materials. The fire fighters all need to be familiar with the buildings in their station area.

They also need to be able to pass on that information when a situation requires it. Typically, this happens when a fire is too big for the local station to handle. According to Home Office guidelines, buildings and ar-

cas are categorised by risk from "A" to "D". An "A" risk site, such as a hospital, requires two fire engines to arrive at the site within five minutes and a third tender to arrive within eight minutes. Information, including 1 (1) (d), must be available to all the key people on the ground, and especially the officer in charge.

"After collecting the relevant information, we then feed it into the computer system, which ultimately shows a picture of the scene on three levels," Mr Glossop says.

Gwent Fire Brigade uses two identical systems from Sun Microsystems. One sits inside a mobile control unit (MCU), a purpose-built, sound-proofed incident room where senior officers decide

how to co-ordinate fire engines. The other system is housed at brigade headquarters.

From the mobile control unit, the officer in charge collates all the information that he requires from the GIS, brigade control and from his fire fighters and others at the scene, and uses it to direct the operation.

"The decisions made in the first minutes determine whether a fire is tackled successfully"

Through a graphical user interface, which presents computer information as pictures rather than as complex tables and figures, the system shows a visual picture of the area being dealt with. The first level presents an Ordnance Survey map of the town, or village, where the incident has occurred.

"You get an overall picture very

quickly of access routes to guide appliances through," Mr Glossop says. The second level drills down to a more detailed street map and not only locates the burning property but also what hazards there are in the immediate vicinity.

For example, if there is a fire at night at a warehouse where there is a danger of exploding chemical drums, the school around the corner and the nearby office block are unlikely to present risks of personal danger because the pupils left at 3.30pm and the office workers went home two hours later. But the neighbouring hospital may have to be evacuated.

"If he doesn't know the area, the senior officer at the scene has a very quick picture of the scene. Senior officers are generally based at headquarters. They don't know the local area as well as those on the ground," Mr Glossop says.

The third level of computer detail magnifies a plan of the premises on fire to show the water supplies, and where and what the hazards are.

"There is already a computer-aided

mobility system at brigade headquarters on which staff receive emergency calls and allocate the appropriate resources. But a computerised repository of all the information we need at a major incident, available there at the scene, provides far greater command and control. It will also improve the safety of fire fighters."

There is, however, a need for information beyond that offered in the basic GIS. The Gwent brigade is developing a system which builds photography into GIS's database, so that fire fighters can identify, for example, a critical valve at a burning chemical plant, or a priceless painting to be salvaged at a country estate.

A video playback facility is also being planned, where an officer would be able to "walk through" footage of the scene. This may be particularly useful, for instance, to study access routes to the remote parts of the local railway: the Severn tunnel, for example, lies within the Gwent Brigade area. "Most importantly, the system should shave precious minutes off the making of decisions," Mr Glossop says.

ON LINE

The nerd factor

JAPAN'S increasingly affluent young are losing their interest in technology and science, posing a threat to industrial progress, according to the Japanese Science and Technology Agency's annual white paper.

Among the young, science and technology is developing a nerdy-only image, and is increasingly seen as a subject for the hard-working, unfashionable students, says Yukihiko Hirano, director of the agency's policy research division.

Young Japanese, brought up on video games and at home with computers, enjoy using modern technology, he says, but this is a passive interest different from having a curiosity to learn how things work.

tion with national operators. The legislation would abolish restrictions on the provision of satellite earth equipment and services over satellite business networks.

Equipment suppliers would be free to offer their products direct to consumers, the commission says. The legislation could be in place by the end of 1994.

Direct sell

CUT-THROAT competition in the price of PCs has led to machines being increasingly sold direct from manufacturers, cutting out the middleman. Now even computer companies such as the German firm Siemens Nixdorf are selling direct. Long recognised as providing quality equipment, but at a cost, Siemens says its latest PC prices rival those of firms such as Compaq.

Games crash

MORE than 1,100 original computer games failed to find a buyer at Christie's last week. The single lot had been expected to fetch between £10,000 and £12,000 at the London sale. The collection included Infocom's *Zork I*, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and other early games.

Eric Doyle, an expert on computer games, says: "Many old personal computers have been superseded and if you no longer have a compatible machine the game is useless. It is not like collecting old toys, or records."

50 million mark

SONY'S Digital Audio Disc Corporation in Indiana has just produced its fifty millionth CD-ROM disc. "Five years ago, there were only 200 CD-ROM titles available. Today, there are more than 3,700, and forecasts predict a total of 6,000 titles by the end of 1994," says Olaf Olafsson, president of Sony Electronic Publishing.

CD-ROM drives are becoming popular in newer PCs and could become the standard in the next generation of video game machines, such as SDO's interactive game player.

Beam me down

THE European Commission says it wants to extend existing telecommunications legislation to satellites, allowing private operators to offer satellite-based services in all EC countries in compe-



Dr Behrooz Rashidzadeh, of Scientific Generics, is seeking a solution to Hungary's telecommunication difficulties

Hungary gets all DECT out

A British firm is leading Eastern Europe's latest revolution

In Eastern Europe, there is another revolution going on: in telecommunications. With an efficient telephone system now seen as a prerequisite for creating successful business environments, many former communist states are upgrading their notoriously unreliable telecommunications facilities as quickly as possible.

But instead of spending billions of pounds and several years digging up thousands of miles of streets in order to install conventional telecommunication cables, the Eastern Europeans want a simpler solution and have turned to a British firm. Its task? To find the quickest way to give Eastern Europe a 21st century communications system.

Scientific Generics is a Cambridge-based technology consultancy that is leading a team testing new types of cordless phone systems, assessing the feasibility of DECT, the Digital Cordless Telecommunication Standard. DECT is a system where small base stations are erected in neighbourhoods, which communicate via radio waves with miniature receivers in households or with individual handsets, therefore avoiding the need for local cabling.

With this in mind, Dr

Behrooz Rashidzadeh, Scientific Generics' project manager, has been trying to replicate the street plans of Hungary in Cambridge and north London to provide a test bed for the new system. This means finding similar types of residential blocks, a small industrial site, a typical Hungarian high street and other urban and suburban environments.

The new system has impressed the Hungarian Telecommunications Company (HTC). Scientific Generics has secured about £400,000 from the EC for trials, which will take place over the next few months. The company has also co-opted a number of European telecommunication operators and manufacturers into the project, including BT.

They will undertake a variety of scientific and subjective tests of the speech quality of the equipment; calculations to find the maximum distance the handsets can be used away from a base station; and the potential difficulty of the telecommunication signal penetrating thick concrete walls — a common feature in many Hungarian apartments. They

will also assess the economic feasibility of establishing a network in a typical Hungarian town.

As there is no existing commercial network in Britain, the consortium has acquired a special licence from the Home Office to use the new and non-licensed telecommunication equipment.

Dr Rashidzadeh says that the trial will allow the group to assess a variety of set ups. These include having individual mini receiving stations placed on the roofs of every home or business. This has the advantage that each receiving station could be up to one to two kilometres from the main base station. Individual homes and offices could still each have several handsets which could be inter-connected.

One other possibility is to use more powerful DECT handsets which would communicate directly with the neighbourhood base station. Thus, every user could make and receive calls anywhere within a 200-metre radius of the base station.

Dr Rashidzadeh argues that DECT is a much less complex

technology for small-scale residential and business purposes than the GSM cellular telecommunication systems that are being introduced throughout Europe, with the idea that mobile phone owners will be able to use their handsets anywhere across the Continent.

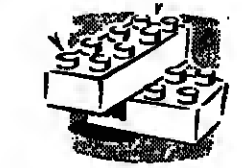
Additionally, he says, DECT handsets have a greater in-built intelligence. Specifically, this means they can choose between 60 channels to provide the user with the clearest reception, a facility which is not available on GSM handsets. DECT can also accommodate faxes and ISDN lines.

At present, the main drawback with this system is the price. The cost of a mini receiving station and a single handset is estimated to be between £200 to £300, a large expenditure for a low-income family in Eastern Europe. However, prices should drop once demand increases.

Once the British trials are completed early next year, the system will be demonstrated in Hungary. After that, Dr Rashidzadeh is hopeful that a commercial system could be in place within the next few years.

ALAN JABEZ

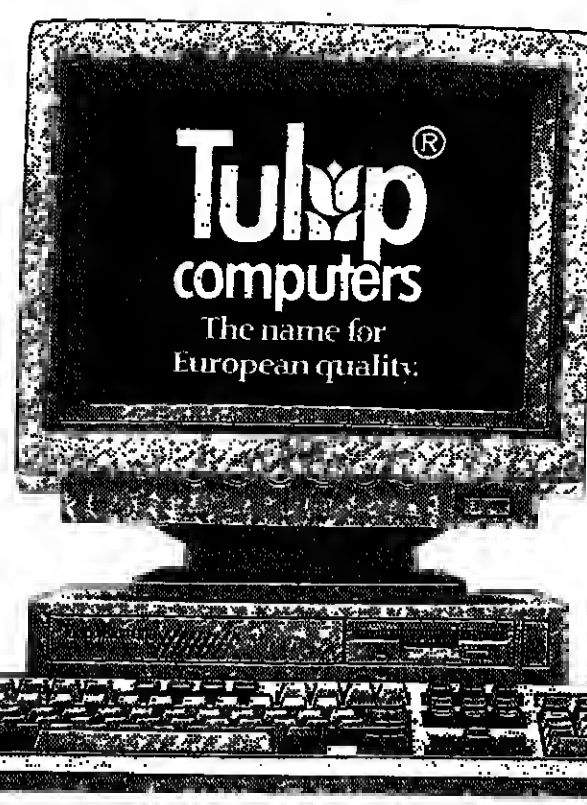
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POP page 36
If looks could kill...
Caitlin Moran complains
that style too often
triumphs over substance

ARTS

POP page 37
Michael Bolton, the pop
star who isn't afraid to
show he cares; it's what
his music is all about



Six ways to crack a Christmas nut

Look around British theatres tonight and you could be forgiven for thinking that *The Nutcracker* was the only ballet in the world, writes *Debra Crane*. In the Midlands, Birmingham Royal Ballet is well into its annual *Nutcracker* season at the Birmingham Hippodrome; in Nottingham English National Ballet is resident at the Royal Concert Hall; and in London, Adventures in Motion Pictures is offering an alternative *Nutcracker* at Sadler's Wells.

Two visiting Russian companies are also traipsing around the country with *Nutcrackers*: the Fern Ballet at the Derrig in Northampton, Moscow City Ballet at the Grand Opera House in York. Still to come is Covent Garden's contribution, which opens on December 17, and ENB's massive month-long season on the South Bank, which begins on December 22.

Nutcracker has been the popular choice at Christmas for decades, but this year takes the biscuit well over 100 performances by six different companies in venues around Britain. You can see the attraction: a ballet with a Yuletide theme, filled with familiar tunes, and guaranteed to attract an audience of adults and children alike. You can almost hear the cash registers ringing.

Still, wouldn't it be nice to give the Sugar Plum Fairy a rest at Christmas and turn to a fresh cast of characters for our Christmas cheer? We asked six leading participants in this year's *Nutcracker* binge to help us.



ANTHONY DOWELL	JOHN GADSWICK	DEREK DEANE	SUSAN JAFFE	PETER WRIGHT	MARION TAIT
Artistic director, Royal Ballet	Principal dancer, Royal Ballet	Artistic director, English National Ballet	American guest artist, English National Ballet	Artistic director, Birmingham Royal Ballet	Principal dancer, Birmingham Royal Ballet

"I WAS thinking of something with a Christmas theme, and I know people have done *Christmas Carol* and *Scrooge*. But if I had an enormous budget and an amazing choreographer I would like to see the Twelve Days of Christmas as a ballet. It's a zany idea, but it was a wonderful film [On the Twelfth Day] which Wendy Toye produced in 1955.

"The chaos by the end of the film, with maids a-milking, and lords a-leaping, pipers piping, and swans a-swimming, and geese a-laying all in this room that was getting more and more crowded. It was all rather English and slightly mad and had a sort of appeal. As a ballet I think it would have to be done with tremendous wit, but not too broad. Done absolutely straight and then the chaos at the end could be a fugue-type finale. It would be effect after effect."

"I THINK *Fille mal gardée* could be done for Christmas because it's in the panto vein, it's a bit of fun, light-hearted and it sends everybody out of the theatre smiling. *Fille* is a family ballet, really great fun to do, and even though it's summer that doesn't matter, it still has a holiday feeling about it.

"I also think [Wayne Eagling's] *Frankenstein* would have gone down quite well at Christmas. It's different, unusual, a bit of a showstopper. But there is so much entertainment around at Christmas let's try and get them to come to the ballet. Maybe someone should choreograph a special piece something more up to date and with a lot of magic. I always thought that *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis would make a wonderful ballet for children, with its magical kingdom of snow and ice, and a wicked queen."

"I HATE Christmas anyway so I would like to do something absolutely horrible. And if I could do anything I would like to knock down the back wall of the Met in New York and build an incredible Spielberg Hollywood set, and with Spielberg directing I would choreograph ENB in Bram Stoker's *Dracula* with extras the size of Ben Hur. Obviously I would have an unlimited budget."

And if he didn't? "Anything by Hans Christian Andersen or Charles Dickens would make wonderful ballets for Christmas. *The Christmas Carol* could be wonderful, theatrical and brilliant. I'd love to do some more Dickens. I like the wealth of his stories, of his characters. There is such variety in Dickens that would make great character work for a company. And I think a rather strange version of *Oliver Twist* could work as a ballet."

"I THINK a fantastic ballet would be Salman Rushdie's *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*. Have you read it? It's so full of fantasy. For children it's wonderful and for adults it's an allegory. It has no Christmas theme but there are two parts of the world in it. One is completely dark and the other is completely light and cold. It's got a dark side and a light side but it has to be a marriage of the two because you can't have one without the other. It's full of morals. What happens is that the dark people capture the princess on the light side and the light people have to go into the dark side to rescue her.

"In dance terms there is so much to play with, so many parts, so many chances for dances. And it's quite hysterical: it's embarrassing to read in public because you laugh all the time. It's very uplifting and really fun."

"I WOULD go for the second half of the *Sleeping Beauty* fairytale. It's quite a horror story. After the wedding, when the Prince returns to his own kingdom, he dare not tell his mother he is married, even though he and Aurora by now have two children. Then his mother finds out and she is insanely jealous because she has a mother-son complex. She sends a woodcutter out to kill the children and bring their hearts back. Of course they are absolutely adorable children and the woodcutter can't bring himself to kill them so he kills two deer instead. But the mother causes such havoc in the end that finally the Prince pushes her into a snakepit.

"Now there's your adult entertainment for Christmas. People wouldn't know what on earth they were getting. It would have to be quite a send-up, quite wild, not a serious horror thing."

"ACTUALLY I would keep *Nutcracker*, but nothing like it is now. I have this vision of *Nutcracker* beginning with the traditional cosy Victorian middle-class Christmas but instead of the traditional transformation scene we move 100 years on to the 1980s to look at the same family in the Thatcher years. So in the national dances we visit Spain and Torremolinos; Fritz has become a lager lout and Clara is making whoopee with Spanish waiters. The Oriental dance becomes a shopping spree in Hong Kong and the Arab dance is about drugs in Marrakesh. And Clara sees her ideal woman in the Sugar Plum Fairy, a successful career woman who has everything.

"Then transformation again, and they've lost it all in the 1989 stock market crash and have reverted to the Victorian values of the 1890s. It's a happy ending, I think, because they've come back to family values."

THEATRE: Molière comedy in Islington

Timely lesson in innocence

Why does *The School for Wives*, in which an ageing gent brings up a peasant girl for the sole purpose of making her his emotional and sexual slave, seem almost as timely now as it did in Molière's day? Then, it coincided with a fierce debate about a woman's right to be educated and to exercise a veto over her parents' plans for her life. Today, tales of cloning and other such "advances" are to be found alongside reports of Third World children being bred to provide spare organs for sickly westerners. In one way or another, Pygmalion is always with us.

Still, that is to wax a bit heavy about what Jonathan Kent's revival reminds us. It is also one that gives Ian McDiarmid an opportunity to demonstrate his talent, still unusual in our theatre, for embodying extremes of delight and rage. He is Arnolphe, a Molière monomaniac who feels the same way about being cuckolded as Harpagon does about losing his lucre. That is why he clapped Agnes in a nunnery when she was four and now keeps her cloistered in his house: "she is like a lump of wax, and I can mould her to whatever shape I like as she grows older."

White McDiarmid's

The School
for Wives
Almeida

Arnolphe slavers. Emma Fielding's Agnes patiently wits. But at the play's centre is a joke, and a most satisfying one. It is her very innocence, carefully perpetuated by him, that subverts his plans. Agnes knows nothing of sex, though she vaguely suspects that babies get born through the ears. So why not respond in the conscientious way the nuns taught her when a young man begs for "medicine" for his pain? Why not let him kiss her hand and maybe go a bit further? "Had he asked, you may be sure I'd have done anything to speed his cure," she earnestly tells Arnolphe, simultaneously reassuring and riling him with her naive confidence in his approval.

Peter J. Davidson's set, centring on the outside of a town-house hemmed in by high, padlocked railings, has its oddities. It gives the impression that the play's more oppressively intimate encounters occur in the street. Its references to the fallen Eve—a Cranach painting visible through the window of Agnes's upstairs prison, an



Slavering: Bernard Gallagher and Ian McDiarmid

apple tree to the side—seem a bit incongruous. But it makes a satisfactory setting for a production that manages to be deft, unpretentious and pretty well acted.

The pluses include Linal Haft and Carol Macready as two gormless servants and Damian Lewis as a young hero with first-hand passion, as well as Fielding's gently budding Agnes. To watch her smile at the sun as at a long-lost friend, or fade and droop as she recites from a rulebook for wives, is to see a fine actress in the making. But the most complete performance comes from McDiarmid.

His Arnolphe is not an obvious maniac. Rather, he is a genial, normal-seeming chap with one screw that starts loose and ends up turning triple-somersaults in his head. Where there was gleeful self-belief, punctuated by triumphant scorn for bluestockings, suddenly there are roars of disbelief and dismay, snarls of fury, and frantic displays of what, behind the avarice, may be thwarted tenderness. The Laura Pels Foundation, which sponsored the production, should be proud.

BENEDICT
NIGHTINGALE

OPERA IN MILAN: Rodney Milnes on the opening night of the season at La Scala

Vestal's flame burns bright

This year's La Scala opening saw an extremely interesting performance of an equally interesting opera. Spontini's *La Vestale* was premiered in Paris in 1807 under the patronage of the Empress Josephine. It was an enormous success, and played all over Europe for half a century and more. *Vestale* is interesting because its roots are firmly in Gluck's reform operas—there is a similar directness of utterance and avoidance of operatic flummery—yet it also bears the seeds of romantic opera. Wagner, Verdi and Berlioz all learnt something from Spontini—the dramatic use of public ceremonial, how to build a succession of scenes into a well-shaped act.

The plot was also influential. Julia, the Vestal of the title, is so occupied with her lover, the Roman general Licinius, that she omits to tend the sacred flame, which goes out. Burial alive is the sentence—the High Priest is obdurate—but divine lightning re-ignites the flame and she is saved, just to prove that this is a neoclassical opera, and one of the last. How many other chaste-ish priestesses, military lovers and brass priests we meet in 19th-century opera, and the healthy strain of anticlericalism—*Vestale* is also an opera of the Enlightenment—lasts until late Verdi (*Carlos and Aida*).

The interest of this performance lay in its use of a new edition based on the 1805 autograph rather than the hitherto familiar 1807 text. This had some effect on vocal

registers. Licinius and his military colleague Cinna are officially tenors, but Spontini was writing before male voices were strictly codified. Spontini's "tenor" roles lie comparatively low, and here both were taken with little apparent adjustment by high baritones. Anthony Michaels-Moore (top Cs no problem) and J. Patrick Rafferty.

Chauvinism is unattractive, but my bosom swelled with just a little pride to witness Michaels-Moore enjoying a deservedly successful Scala debut. He alone of the cast sang in crystal clear French (*Vestale*, unlike last year's *Carlos*, was sung in the original language) and he shaped the music with the innate musicianship we in Britain have come to treasure.

The American soprano Karen Huffstodt sang Julia. There is an attractive flutter to her tone that is not too well-suited to the chastely sculpted line of much of her music, but in the second act she has to be a Gluck and Wagner heroine all in one, and one could not but admire the spirit with which she successfully assaulted the task.

Denyce Graves, next month's eagerly awaited Covent Garden Carmen, sang the Grand Vestal with fruity, firm mezzo tone, and Dimitri

ingly as the High Priest. The one disappointment was Riccardo Muti's conducting. He went for a big, fat romantic sound, emphasising *Vestale*'s influence rather than its neoclassical roots, and tended to hustle the score along rather than let it unfold naturally. Much of the piece's craggy grandeur and chaste serenity went missing.

The producer Lilla Cavani set the opera firmly in the Napoleonic era: in the first act it looked as if we were about to get the whole David's Coronation of Josephine on stage (money is object in Milan). It all looked very handsome, and often different from the last *Scala Vestale*, Visconti's staging of Callas in 1954.

All the ballet was include which is good news: the b oews is that there was 1 attempt to make it fit t period: it was just post-Peti classical lingua franca, as performed with cervath flamboyance.

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AUTOMOTIVE COMPONENTS

Just as the British car market shows the first tentative signs of recovery, new-car sales throughout Western Europe have gone into free-fall, even tougher times are forecast, *Vaughan Freeman* writes.

Sales in continental Europe are down 15 per cent overall this year and analysts agree they will fall faster, and

Hard times, but suppliers are building new markets

further. Britain's automotive components suppliers, with an annual turnover of £14.7 billion, send £3 billion-worth abroad each year as direct exports. How will the UK industry cope with these shrinking export markets?

New products, such as long-life clutches, a revolutionary hydraulic cable, and an automated clutch and transmission system, are being vigorously promoted, while home markets are being developed and new

ones explored, including Poland, China and the Far East. "Where we cannot manufacture, we will license," says Peter Crawford, chief executive of BBA group's automotive division.

Triplex, the window and windscreen maker, hopes to win business with Honda, the third Japanese transplant in Britain, on top of links with Toyota and Nissan, and boost productivity through investment and slimming the workforce.

Despite a collapse in commercial vehicle production, down 28 per cent in western Europe, GKN's first-half figures showed total sales up £129 million above 1992 at £1,367 million, though profit is slightly down. Sir David

Lees, GKN chairman, reports that sales to North America and Spain have partially offset the shortfalls in continental Europe, together with sales to Honda and Toyota's new UK operations.

In the next three years, sales to Europe's car plants could increase by more than £1 billion, and increased vehicle production in the UK would generate more sales. Ford already spends £2.6 billion and Rover £2.5 billion. As a result, the component sector in the UK is set to reinforce its position as a crucial element in UK manufacturing.

The survival of Britain's car industry depends on the unsung manufacturers in the backroom. Kevin Eason reports

They form one of the biggest manufacturing sectors in Britain yet few become the household names that even most informed could recognise.

Component manufacturers appropriately at this time of year — are known as the underdogs of the motor industry, the unsung and generally unknown firms which work in the heat of the kitchen of the motor industry. Unlike the underdogs, few have ever managed to climb the stairs to the top.

But now component manufacturers are coming out of the shadows and into the spotlight to be seen as one of the most important contributors to the British economy. Their role as innovators, designers and manufacturers is a key to the survival of the car makers and the long-term health of the European motor industry.

The UK automotive components industry is one of the fastest and growing in the world with sales of £14.7 billion a year — 4.6 per cent of UK's total manufacturing output. Three in every 100 workers in manufacturing in Britain are in a component-making business.

The most up-to-date study by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders estimates that component makers export directly about £3 billion-worth of parts every year, a figure that does not include export of major components, such as engines, which car makers themselves export.

Most business is with British and Continental manu-

Key role as innovators



A quality controller makes final checks on the finish of a car at Toyota's plant

facturers with about £9 billion of equipment supplied within the European Community. But the most adventurous companies are spreading far and wide to Japan, America and Korea.

The fact that they are beating worldwide competition is a tribute to their growing reputation. The payoff for their ambition will be even more export orders.

The SMMT study expects British component factories to

sell an extra £1 billion-worth of parts to Europe's motor industry alone over the next three years.

Even the most prestigious manufacturers, such as Volkswagen and Mercedes-Benz, have turned their attention to the UK where the shakeouts of two recessions have left a much smaller but vigorous and determined industry with low wage costs and high productivity.

Volkswagen is doubling component spending in Britain to £400 million annually while Ford of Germany is spending almost £500 million a year in Britain, about 16 per cent of its annual component spend.

But the biggest boost for the industry has come from the introduction of the Japanese car manufacturers to the UK: three companies — Toyota, Honda and Nissan — offering £1.5 billion of component contracts. The lion's share of the

components contracts has gone to UK companies, which have proved themselves willing to adapt from their old inefficient ways.

Car makers are becoming ever more demanding of their suppliers.

It is not just quality that they want but ideas. They need to save money constantly on every part down to the smallest washer but they also want suppliers to come up with the components of the future.

In its report on the British automotive components industry, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders says research and development spending totalled £150 million in 1991-92. Seventy per cent of that was accounted for by the six biggest companies and even then was only 1.2 per cent of the industry's turnover.

The best companies achieved 2.5 per cent of turnover, but that compares with research and development investment of 6 per cent by German automotive component companies and 3.5 per cent by the French.

The problem is that the bulk of investment in R&D is restricted to the top rank of suppliers.

Professor Dan Jones, author of the SMMT report, says: "It is no good having component industry leaders working at top efficiency and establishing new relationships with the car builders if the jigsaw is not complete further down."

British automotive components makers have stolen an admirable lead from their competitors in a tough market hit heavily by recession. But their job is not over and if they want to remain in the front rank of world suppliers, there is much more investment to be made, and new products to be developed.



Robots work unaided at speed to build Carina bodies on the final weld line

The concept — a dedicated 115 acre automotive Component Park in the Black Country, with shared, centralised R&D, testing and waste management facilities, plus the priceless benefit of interaction between neighbouring companies — like the ACP's first occupant, USA's Johnson controls.

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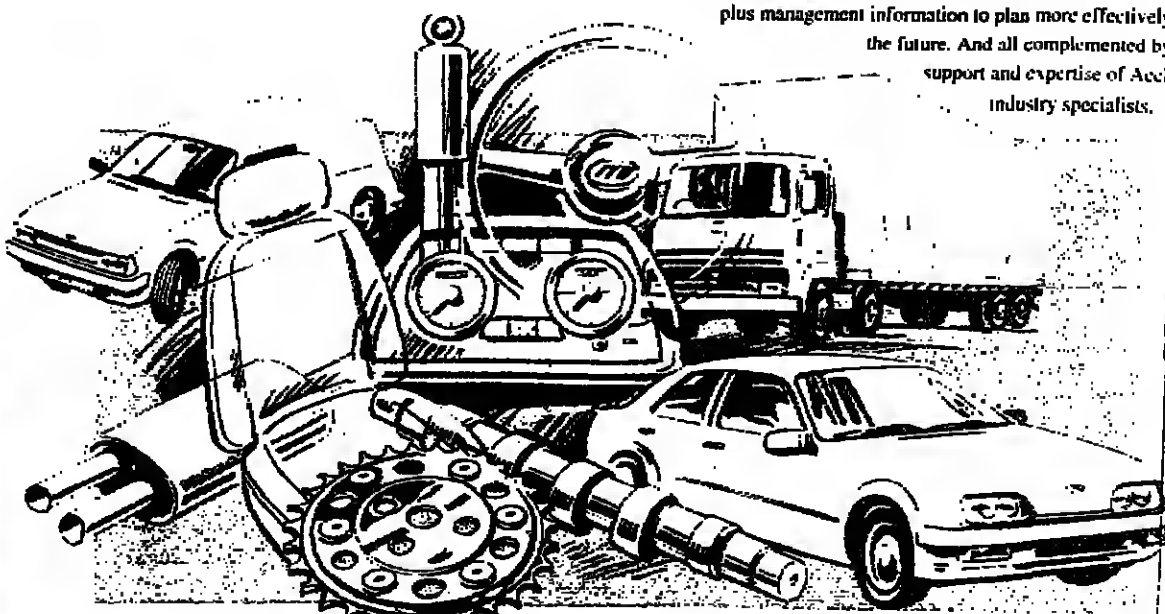
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هكذا من الأصل

MOTORING



There is nothing like first-hand experience when it comes to off-road driving, as Vaughan Freeman discovered in his occasionally airborne Nissan Terrano during a rigorous two-day, cross-country drivers' training course in Scotland



Ups and downs of four-wheeling

Vaughan Freeman tests a tough vehicle, and his skills, on a muddy, demanding off-road training course...

The most enjoyable, odd-ball present for this, or any other festive season will leave your car caked in a messy wrapping of mud and slime, festooned with the odd piece of bracken. On the strength of soaring four-wheel-drive car sales has grown a holiday market offering adventure breaks for off-road drivers.

For the motorist who has everything — or at least a four-wheel-drive car — such breaks, increasingly popular as gifts, are a chance to play seriously with their automotive toy. The courses provide expert tuition and the opportunity to learn what the vehicle is capable of.

If you fancy tearing along a privately-owned Scottish beach, teetering a ton and a half of off-roader on a giant sea-saw, or, more usefully, learning to cope with inclines, trenches, map-reading

and night-driving, such events turn the fantasies into reality. It is part of a growing trend, as four-wheel-drive or "recreational" vehicles assume greater importance in the weekend and holiday lives of their sporting, outdoor owners. Research by Nissan indicates that 55 per cent of off-road owners would use their vehicle for a holiday at least once a year, and 43 per cent of women would use their four-wheel-drive vehicle for weekend trips at least once a month.

A decade ago only a handful of off-road centres in the UK offered drivers training on how best to use four-wheel-drive cars. Those attending were, for the most part, professionals such as foresters, seeking expert guidance. Now dozens of such centres have sprouted, many offering holiday-adventure trips here and abroad.

Some supply a vehicle as part of the package. At others, such as the

two-day Scottish Tartan Trail run by Brian Hartley's Club Off Road, that I joined, you take your own vehicle.

The event, based at the 14th Century Duns Castle, between Edinburgh and Berwick-upon-Tweed, began early on Day One as Brian and his team handed out maps, map co-ordinates and advice. An hour later the six other cars were nowhere in sight and my partner and I were clearly lost, in our test Nissan Terrano, miles from where we should have been. Eventually we arrived at some spectacularly bulldozed and betwined Borders farmland, owned by the family of off-road guru Ronnie Dale, and from where he runs his own driving school.

The first challenge here was to manoeuvre your car on to a piece of a giant's Meccano set, a sea-saw, to demonstrate clutch control — by balancing car and sea-saw for as long as possible. Experts can do this for minutes at a time. In my case it wasn't so simple. A millisecond after driving my car on to the sea-saw, it tilted and crashed down the other side.

The afternoon was spent driving through ditches which seemed to put the vehicle on its side, charging up and down deeply muddy hills, and showering observers with glutinous sprays of Scottish countryside. At night we found ourselves in a dense wood, headlights blinding more than illuminating, as we hunted down specified targets in an

observation-cum-driving test. The final challenge for the day was also the simplest — yet the most daunting.

More a test of nerve than of driving ability, the idea was to drive across a field towards two distant red lamps, with all the car lights off, the dashboard illumination blacked out with masking tape, and expecting all the while to crash into a ravine. In the black of a Scottish night, one became aware how much difference the little things — street lights and a tarmac surface — make to motoring.

Day Two began with more map reading, reduced to simplification level to allow for our stunning lack of competence, before it was back on to private farmland. A shallow

stream had had its black, miry bottom dredged, and the results dumped on a nearby field for us to charge at and through. The technique was simple: a long run-up, into third gear and then attack the stuff flat out. As we were dug out by elbow-deep helpers it became clear that our technique needed honing.

A short run north brought us to the white sand of St Abb's Head, north of Eyemouth. The views of the beach were breathtaking, as was the driving. At 30mph on a deserted beach, the feeling of freedom and speed is incomparable. Manoeuvring tests on the sand, and in between the chance to hit the spray, tested our handling ability.

And for those worried about the environmental aspects of such jaunts, there is the reassurance that because we were driving between the low and high-tide marks, the evidence would be washed away within a few hours.

Brian Hartley says: "I don't want to convert everyone into off-road nuts. But you can have adventure off-road without going into jungles or deserts, or taking part in rally raids and the Camel Trophy. Off-roading is all about technique and it gives people a lot of satisfaction to find they can do it."

Prices vary from £20 a day for centres offering just somewhere to drive off-road, to £270 per person for one of Brian Hartley's three-day events in your own car.

Club Off Road is now working on trips to Ireland, a Slovakia trek, and a Tuareg Trail event in Morocco, but it is not the only organisation offering such outlets to off-road drivers. Most manufacturers of four-wheel-drive cars, including Land Rover and Vauxhall, offer one-day training courses at special centres around the country.

Club Off Road: Tel 0924 469376.

... meanwhile Kevin Eason, motoring correspondent, samples the best of the rest and explains what they offer

LADA NIVA COSSACK (1.6i)

Price: £8,325
Engine: 1.6-litre petrol for 78bhp through 5-speed manual gearbox
Performance: top speed 82mph; 0-60mph in 22sec
Fuel consumption: 27.7mpg

NORMAN Whitaker, Lada national sales manager, says of the Cossack: "We carried out extensive research with dealers, customers and consultants, and they confirmed that we have one of the best-kept secrets in the four-wheel-drive market."

Lada recently relaunched its

off-road cars, at the same time knocking £400 off the price of the basic Niva four-wheel-drive car and unveiling the all-new Niva Cossack.

Street cred has never been the strong-point of the Lada badge but the four-wheel-drive Ladas have off-road performance superior to many rivals costing twice as much.

The Cossack will traverse slippery one-in-three gradients and steeper, climb in and out of quagmires and descend fierce hills. The drawbacks to such competence is a suspension system of spine-crunch-



ing toughness and a lack of power steering likely to deter women drivers.

The four-wheel drive can be

locked for maximum traction. Off-road, a poor turning circle could cause problems, and the pedals are high and awkward.

LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 200TDi

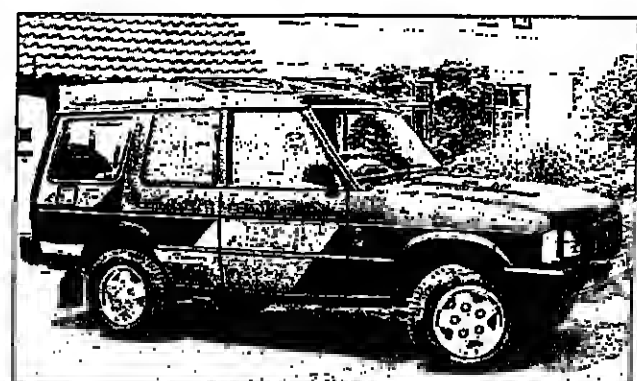
Price: £20,400
Engine: four-cylinder turbo-charged, intercooled diesel offering 111.3bhp
Performance: top speed 91mph; 0-60mph in 17.2sec
Fuel consumption: 33.9mpg

THERE are few vehicles that can claim to have changed the lifestyles of a generation but the Discovery — king of the four-wheel drive pack — can. Where once there were ranks of Volvo and Peugeot estate cars, there are now lines of Discovery models. The Range Rover offers more

luxury and performs better, although the Mitsubishi Shogun is able and well-equipped, and the Daihatsu Fourtrak cheap. But the Discovery combines all the virtues and has none of the faults.

You want to go cross-country? It can do that. A comfortable drive in town? It does that too. Carry a substantial load? No problem. Executive car comfort? That too.

The Discovery simply has no weaknesses. The engineering is sturdy and its turbo-diesel thrills for a vehicle of



early two tons. Even the clumsiest driver with a full load should get 400 miles from the 19.5-gallon tank. The

interior is a triumph: durable and well thought out, with lots of pockets and spaces to carry vittles.

MITSUBISHI SHOGUN 3.0i

Price: £23,539
Engine: 3-litre V6 developing 147bhp; 5-speed gearbox
Performance: top speed 103mph; 0-60mph not available
Fuel consumption: 20.9mpg

THERE are not enough Shoguns to go round, according to Mitsubishi. The company has no problem selling its flagship 4x4 but under quota regulations cannot import enough vehicles to satisfy demand.

Whether the Shogun would dent sales of the Land Rover

Discovery if it had free access to the British market may never be known but there are no doubts about the vehicle's qualities.

The Mitsubishi is gorgeous, particularly using the trusted 3-litre V6 engine so that it can tackle mud like a tank. The interior is well thought out but the Japanese simply have not got the formula that has made the Discovery such a success.

The tendency to go "all-American" among the Japanese 4x4 manufacturers by widening wheel arches and



trying to "jazz up" the image actually detracts and may put off the "country" set who like their vehicles to look classy.

But the family searching for an alternative to an estate car will find the Shogun an ample alternative to Land Rovers.

CHRYSLER JEEP CHEROKEE 4.0

Price: £21,745
Engine: six-cylinder, in-line 4.0-litre, driving through 4-speed automatic transmission, producing 184bhp
Performance: top speed 103mph; 0-60mph in 9.5sec
Fuel consumption 20.9mpg

SAY the name Jeep and the mind's eye sees John Wayne and MASH field stations.

Jeep was the company that took four-wheel-drive and elevated it into a necessity for generations of farmers and aid workers. Unfortunately, the company got left behind by

the rapid advances of Land Rover and the Japanese.

But now Jeep is back and with a vehicle as sumptuous as anything else on the market. The Cherokee comes in two engine choices — 2.5- or 4.0-litre — and has all the features that 4x4 drivers now demand.

The Cherokee Limited 4.0-litre — expected to be the big seller — is super-smooth, with automatic transmission and drives with roaring power in the best American tradition. British drivers may find the interior a little tacky and space



is limited even though the outside looks hefty. Some drivers may find the seating position slightly bi-

zarre with the throttle set a long way from the driver's seat, demanding the seat close up to the steering wheel.

Some birthday present that was

The car broke down. The private clampers moved in. And that was only the beginning. The bills came to £1,000

As a birthday present, it left a lot to be desired. Thanks to the enthusiasm of one of London's private clampers, my birthday turned into 24 frazzled hours during which I missed my own celebration lunch and ran up bills of £1,000.

It started quite simply after a night at my squash club. The car broke down on the way home and I called the AA. The very, very nice man came straight to the point: "This is going to cost you a lot of money and you are going to be off the road for a while. Where do you want towing to?"

We settled on my local garage and I decided that I would return to deliver the keys first thing in the morning. Streatham, south London, is well known for nefarious activities and to avoid any incidents taking place on their forecourt, my garage recently, and unknown to me, had taken the precaution of blocking the entry to its premises.

The AA man left me and my car, with its broken camshaft belt, on a single yellow line just outside and urged me to return first thing in the morning.

Before he left, he stuck a large

note on AA-headed paper inside the front windscreen explaining that the engine was unserviceable and that the garage would look after it in the morning. The car, the note said, could not be driven or moved.

I wandered off in the pouring rain trying to pretend that a potential £600 car bill was of no concern.

Next morning, the first message of my birthday was from the garage service manager. The car already had a parking ticket, he said, and I had better get up there fast as "they are a bit sharp round here".

I leapt out of bed and jogged up the road to rescue the car. My buoyant birthday mood was barely denied but my sense of disbelief grew as I approached the garage and could not see my car where I had left it.

Gingerly, I went to reception and asked whether the mechanics had found a way to move it with neither tow-truck nor keys. Then I heard the response that I feared must

follow: "No, Miss Gorman, it's been towed away."

The service manager explained that he had done his best. He had sat on the bonnet and pleaded with the tow-team to see reason, but to no avail. Now I owed £105 in pound fees, plus a parking ticket, not to mention a hefty repair bill once the car was retrieved.

The next seven hours were spent trying to persuade the AA to recover my car again — not bad considering that I had joined the organisation less than three weeks earlier — and arranging a time when we could both be at the pound.

Several hours were spent at the garage discussing repairs for a car that I might not be able to get back to Streatham and waiting for a hire car that was delivered to almost every Peugeot garage in London apart from the one I was waiting at.

The pound staff showed little concern for my predicament and were greatly amused when I re-

vealed that it was my birthday. They also seemed entertained when I asked how I was supposed to remove a car that could not be driven.

They pointed out that if I did not do so immediately I would be charged a daily storage fee of £12.

I am now trying to recover the pound fee and fine but I feel compensation is in order for a day that was ruined entirely unnecessarily. The car was towed away only minutes after the issue of the parking ticket (and even that was outrageous).

I know traffic wardens treat messages on windcreens with the utmost cynicism, but the one displayed in my sorry looking Peugeot was on AA-headed notepaper. Is it likely that I would raid the offices of the AA to have their notepaper readily available for those occasions when I would like to park illegally?

Could they not have cancelled the fine as soon as I made my case clear at the pound, rather than making

me pay and then demanding that I seek the money back later, after the garage and AA had got round to writing letters supporting my claim. After all, the AA note was still stuck on the windscreen.

Since then I have been telling friends my tale of woe and have been struck by other people's parking misfortunes. One woman told me that she returned to her car in central London to find the tow team in the middle of their work.

After a heated discussion about the invisibility of the yellow lines that had made her parking unacceptable, she made one more plea. Could she remove her golden Labrador from the back seat before the car was removed?

Could she heck! She looked on in despair as the car was hoisted beyond her grasp with the family pet watching in terror from the wrong side of the rear window.

Perhaps I shall get some money back, but I feel sure that there will be no compensation for my ruined birthday and the lunch that I missed. If reason cannot curb the excesses of these firms, regulations should.

FIONA GORMAN

ROADWISE

Volvo extends warranties

VOLVO has stepped up its customer care package with new three-year, 60,000-mile warranties plus eight-year cover against corrosion. The Swedes say the new package, which includes RAC recovery, will not replace the Lifetime Care plan already used by 170,000 Volvo owners. The new deal includes free replacement of catalytic converter, exhaust or battery within the first 50,000 miles or 35 months.

PRICES for historic cars bounced back this week at a Sotheby's sale. The auction at the RAF Museum, Hendon, north London, achieved a total £3.2 million with top price of £397,500 paid by an enthusiast for a supercharged Bentley 4.5-litre four-seat tourer. Second-highest price was £331,500 for a 1928 Mercedes S Sindelf open tourer.

HONDA has introduced a new discount scheme to help owners spread the cost of their motoring

over a year. Service Select allows Honda owners to divide their maintenance costs into 12 monthly payments.

THE AA is holding down membership prices this year. Britain's biggest motoring organisation says better cost control allows the personal membership fee to stay at £36 a year. Home Start at £19 and Relay £26.

THE British Motor Industry Heritage Trust's museum is open through the Christmas period, offering garage scenes from the 1930s, rides on historic vehicles — and a free mince pie. Open every day except Christmas and Boxing Day, prices are adult £5, child £3; a family ticket (two adults, two children) costs £12.

THE hunt is on to find Britain's safest car park. After worries that women motorists could be in danger of mugging in dingy multi-storey parks, the Norwich Union insurance company has asked them to select the best. An advice booklet is available from: NU/Safe Parking, 22 Endell Street, Covent Garden, London WC2H 9AD.



Gachot leaves the High Court after being granted his freedom in October of 1991. He is now aiming to return to Formula One with Pacific Grand Prix next season

Gachot starts out on long road back

Bertrand Gachot sold his London flat soon after he was released from prison. He lives in Brussels now and happy coincidence has intervened so that, today of all days, he is about as far away from the English capital as it is possible to be. Three years ago exactly, at Hyde Park Corner, Gachot spun off the fast track to success.

If he had dodged the London traffic as carefully as he picked his way round the motor racing circuits of the world and avoided a small bump with a black cab, he might not be in Japan today, still seeking the sponsorship he needs to clinch a drive with Pacific Grand Prix, one of two new English teams planning to compete in Formula One next season.

In the first half of 1991, he established himself firmly as a rising star. Some even tipped him as a future world champion. He won the Le Mans 24-hour race, finished fifth in that year's Canadian grand prix for the new Jordan team and then set the fastest lap in the



Oliver Holt meets a driver who has seen adversity but is ready to resume his Formula One career

Hungarian grand prix some weeks later. That was his last outing of the season.

His court case began three days after the Budapest race. After his collision with the taxi, the driver, Eric Court, jumped out and remonstrated with him. Gachot, a French national who is an adopted Belgian, said he thought he was about to be assaulted and sprayed CS gas into the face of the taxi driver from a canister which he kept in his Alfa Romeo car for his girlfriend's protection.

After a three-day trial at Southwark Crown Court, a jury found him guilty of assault, causing actual bodily harm and of possession of the canister, an offence in Britain, but not in France, Germany or Belgium. He was sentenced to 18 months in prison and a six-month concurrent term for possession of a prohibited

weapon. He was led away, gesturing helplessly and muttering "for nothing".

Gachot was held in Brixton Prison and the High Court reinforced the severity of his punishment when it refused requests for bail so that he could drive in his home grand prix at Spa the following weekend. His absence led to the start of another brilliant career — his place at Jordan was taken by Michael Schumacher.

His case became a *cause célèbre* in Belgium where demonstrators besieged the British embassy in Brussels and political commentators contrasted his punishment with what they considered the leniency shown to many British fans in the aftermath of the 1985 Heysel Stadium disaster, which claimed the lives of 39 supporters.

He was freed two months

later after the Court of Appeal reduced his sentence, but by then his drive with Jordan had disappeared and he was under pressure to repay a £250,000 loan he had taken out to secure his position. "I am ruined," he said on his release. "Being in an English prison has cost me £1 million."

His money problems have receded but he is still playing catch-up with his career. He fought his way back into Formula One in 1992 but had a largely barren year with Larrousse.

Last season, he was preparing for another season with the French team but was discarded before the first race and, as he prepared to fly to the Far East yesterday, Gachot, 30, admitted his experiences had sapped his motivation.

"You think you are working hard at something," he said, "you invest 100 per cent in a project as I did with Jordan and then it gets ruined by something that is outside your control. That is very dispiriting. It makes you wonder what is the point in trying,

if that can happen, and whether it will happen again."

"I just force myself not to think about where my career would have been if the whole thing had not occurred. I do not want to count out the number of things that it did to me. There is no point saying I would have won this race or that race by now, or I would have been world champion."

Despite his lingering resentment about the affair, Gachot professes no bitterness towards the British, just disdain for the legal system and a determination to accentuate the positive aspects of his imprisonment. "It was a fantastic human experience," he said. "On my first day in prison after they had taken my clothes away from me, I just thought, 'wow, what have I left behind?'"

There were some guys in there I had to be careful with. But there were others for whom life had just taken a wrong course, or who were there because of an injustice. I had about 10,000 letters of support and I learned that I could get back to where I was before, if I wanted to. I am back now, but it took all my strength to do it."

would have got off the ground."

Gachot is equally impressed with his new partners. "I have every confidence in Pacific's chances next season because they have proved themselves at every level," he said.

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How we sailed into yachting's record-books

The following are excerpts from Smith's diary during the second stage of the Whitbread Round the World Yacht Race, which he won yesterday after reaching Fremantle a day and a half ahead of the record set by the New Zealand yacht, *Steinlager II*, which won the 1989 race.

Lawrie Smith, skipper of *Intrum Justitia*, describes his record-breaking ride through the Southern Ocean

November 30

1400 GMT: Wind and seas building. Just covered 101 miles in 6 hours. Ice spray cutting across the deck with the power of a fire hydrant, forcing itself down my neck, up sleeves and into boots. Winds settling over the beam.

Just the conditions Intrum likes, but wettest for the crew. Weather fax shows we could be in for a wild but wet ride.

1600: Boat cutting through the waves like a Sherman tank. Spray everywhere. Spinnaker blown apart. All hands on deck to grab the remnants in the dark. It takes 5 minutes to change sails and speed drops from 20 to 10 knots. That's a mile we have lost to Dickson's Tokio.

1750: Halyard breaks — the fourteenth so far on this leg. One man has to shin up the mast in the dark to replace it. A dangerous job in these seas. Still averaging 20 knots and surfing much faster.

2000: Just covered 111 miles — 5 more than Dickson. Cheer goes up. But can the next watch maintain this pace?

We are all frozen and starving. Water temperatures are close to freezing and blinding spray makes it impossible to see further than the mast.

We now wear goggles to protect our eyes from the stinging spray. Heaven, help us if there is ice ahead. Below decks, the heater is in pieces as Marcus tries to fix it. Boat is cold, wet and stinks of diesel and stale salt.

Food. Another meal of water saturated paper. This freeze-dried stuff may be light and hot but does it do us any good? Must supplement this with proper food on future legs, including sugar and

December 1

0200: Back on watch. Clothes still wet and boots cold. Feet are numb. Intrum has covered 105 miles in six hours. Good but not as good as Tokio which has clawed back four miles on us.

0330: Another halyard breaks. Spinnakers now held by two halyards and twin sheets in effort to reduce these breaking loads. Meanwhile the power hosing continues, washing crew down the decks and knocking me off the wheel.

0800: We make 106 miles — Tokio down to 102. Race office telex us that we have just broken Fortuna's world record with a 423-mile run in 24 hours. We have the Omega Yellow Jersey once more.

1200: Winds now 35 knots across the deck. Water flying everywhere, running down the halyard exit holes and filling the bilge. Time to take in a reef. Shake up two of the off-watch who look only half asleep to help. Not a welcome job.

Time to take spinnaker down and replace with jib-top as wind swings forward. Boat now cutting through the seas throwing up a shower of spray. We are cold, hungry and wet, but holding on to the lead by our finger-nails.

0200: Our submarine covers 103 miles. Tokio is down to 98. Dickson must have endured more problems than Intrum. Race HQ telex us with another record, this time 425 miles in 24 hours.

Even better, Dickson has managed only 415. Another 2,200 miles and 9 days to go. Any longer and we will have webbed feet.

Report, page 48

Frantic league pace hides lack of quality

NEW Zealand play the kind of rugby that its public wants, although not, one would like to think, with the kind of cynicism that seemed to pervade the last touring party. The New Zealand style has evolved over the years in its national team and is reinforced among the country's provinces and clubs.

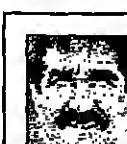
There are those who admire the uniformity and stability that stems from this and go so far as to suggest that rugby is never quite so strong in this country simply because there is not the same comprehensive pattern that stretches the length and breadth of the land. Looking at the way the English divisional teams played this may be something that is entering the scheme of things. But whether this is wise should be a matter of debate.

The point is whether the rugby style developing in this country is the kind the public generally wants. Am I right in noticing a certain disquiet among the rugby-going crowd? Has a gap developed between what the public expects and what it gets?

The question may be thought redundant since it appears to be at odds with the fact that since league rugby began the crowds have, by and large, increased. If England are a very successful team it is what is occurring below this level and what effect it might have for the future, that is of concern. The stifling and excessive club programme, if I read the signs correctly, and the lack of individual vision that this breeds, have allowed other countries to steal a march on us in the British Isles.

Does the tension and the urgency of the league contest divert attention from the lack of quality?

There is a knife-edged expectancy that makes enormous demands on nervous



GERALD DAVIES
Rugby Commentary

energy. There is movement within limited parameters and plenty of power. Increasingly, these matches encourage a hardened competitiveness.

Incidentally, nothing showed England's resolve more than that occasion at Twickenham when Rob Andrew was forced three times to drop out from his 22 metre line. Twice he kicked long into the All Black half. Twice the All Blacks, who will contrive always to play the game beyond the opposition's ten metre line, kicked it back to force another drop out from Andrew.

By this time, being the nice guy he is, he might have felt that he was letting the side down, perhaps the whole of England, if he continued repeating this tedious tactic. After all, the crowd had paid good money in the hope of better things. However, not to be fazed, Andrew, for the third time, kicked it long and approximately to the same place. He succeeded in frustrating the opposition and ended up with a set piece in New Zealand's half. England were not going to give an inch, psychologically or otherwise.

All this is to the general good. There is vigour, yes. There are thrills, too. Fitness levels are higher. Are skills nowadays superior? To what extent does it explore the players' and the teams' potential?

Regrettably, a club in need of league points does not have the luxury of spending much time philosophising in this way. There are, they will insist, more pressing matters, like survival, on their minds.

If rugby is about winning it is about many other things, too. It is also about coming to terms with losing. And a youngster wishing to take up the game must recognise and understand the requirements that attend both of these. Encouraging youngsters to want to take up the game is what rugby is, also, about. A sport avoids this obligation at its peril. Losing does not deter them, and winning is not the reason why they keep on coming back for more. The fundamental reason is that they enjoy the game.

The trend in the British game is to follow New Zealand's pattern and to emphasise the physical aspects at the expense, it seems, of individual enterprise. Tactics are narrow. Australia, in fact, would present a better example to follow since they are not so inclined to negative tendencies.

This is where the gap exists. If in New Zealand young players are happy to follow their country's traditions it is doubtful that we, with a different temperament and sets of rugby values, should be encouraged to follow their fashion. Youngsters are happy with a physical game, but only if it is balanced with plenty of running in spaces. This, I would vouch, is true of the wishes of spectators also. Tennis is not so attractive if based on a power serve. Nor is rugby if based solely on muscle. The test for the future is whether the best of what is thought to be British, and exemplified to a certain extent by the Barbarians, can be turned to more winning ways.

Getting to grips with Ballesteros

IT WAS not the best of years for Nick Faldo and it was not the best of years for golf books, either. There was nothing to compare with Lorne Rubenstein's cerebral offering, *Links* (Stanley Paul, £12.99) in 1991, and certainly nothing in golf to match the turbulent enthusiasm of Stephen Jones's book about rugby union, *Endless Winter* (Mainstream £14.99), which was deservedly named the sports book of the year.

Lauren St John came closest with her second golf book. The first, *Shooting at Clouds*, was about life on the PGA European Tour and though it was dotted with mistakes, there was no concealing its freshness. This year's offering is about Seve Ballesteros and titled *SEVE: The Biography* (Partridge Press, £14.95).

Despite its 300-plus pages and pompous title, suggesting that this is the only biography of Ballesteros that matters, when actually a very good one was written by Dudley Doust and published 11 years ago, the book does not get as close to Ballesteros as it would if she had spent a significant amount of time with him.

Ballesteros refused to collaborate with St John, however, although he did know the book was being written and spoke to her on occasions about it; nor could he keep his hands off my copy when he saw me with it a day or so after its publication in the spring. Faced with little co-operation from her subject, St John did what good writers and reporters do. She took her tape recorder and notebook and interviewed everyone she could find about Seve.

Then she sat down and trawled through all this material and turned it into a well-written and thorough, if occasionally too gushing, appraisal.

St John has a writer's eye and ear and a pleasing style. The books about Ballesteros that are being written at

present are going to have to be very good to be better than this one.

Almost Straight Down the Middle by Chris Plumridge (Queen Anne Press, £12.95) is an anthology of his best golf pieces over the past 15 years or so.

Plumridge likes to portray himself as the oldest member, who votes Tory, lives in the Shires, reads the *Daily Telegraph*, cannot stand long hair, believes that women have no place at his club — nor Scots and Welsh, for that matter — and describes golf played from a cart as mechanised polo.

He says this is all a ruse but whenever I have played golf with him he spends a lot of time in the rough on the right. Plumridge has the saving grace of writing well and with humour.

It is a shame that his present employers do not regard his

talents with the same approval as his publishers.

At his best, Plumridge is worthy of being considered a successor to witty golfing writers such as Peter Dobereiner and the late Henry Longhurst.

Malcolm Harmer is prolific. *Death Trap* (Headline, £16.99) is the third thriller to feature Chris Ludlow as in many years and Harmer had his eye on the ball and calendar when he set its denouement at a Ryder Cup.

Which brings me to *Caddie in the Golden Age* (Partridge Press, £14.99) by Ernest Harveys. It includes an account of how he caddied for Walter Hagen in the first Ryder Cup played in Britain, that of 1929 at Mooroway. It is an interesting glimpse of an occasion we had hitherto known little about.

John Hopkins

Pickering looking good

By CRAIG LORD

KAREN Pickering oozed confidence last night. She had just retained her national short-course swimming title at 50 metres freestyle by an indecent margin and the world record for 200 metres, that she is aiming for on Saturday, is still a good bet.

There was a slight swagger about Pickering, 21, as she marched to the blocks ready for her first race since becoming Britain's first woman world champion, at 200 metres freestyle, in Majorca last Friday.

Gloucester, last night, was not quite the same. Indeed, she made it seem as though there was just one protagonist, unusual in the shorter of official races. Her time, 25.99sec, was a fraction down on her English record and almost a second ahead of her nearest rival, Maxine Lock.

Pickering looked a little drawn. "I've been tired since Palma," she said, "but it's getting better each day. I slept all day Saturday and Sunday

and about five hours during the day since. It felt quite good — about what I expected."

As she climbed out of the pool, there were no signs of the wobbly legs that often afflict her after her best efforts.

There was more sobering news for another medal-winner from Palma, however. Paul Palmer, 19, was brought down to earth, losing his



Palmer: down to earth

national short-course 400 metres freestyle title to Andrew Clayton, 20, less than a week after winning the bronze medal in Palma.

The time, 3min 49.75sec to 3min 49.87sec, was four seconds slower than in Palma, and Palmer more sluggish. "I don't feel too well, but I'm not making any excuses," Palmer said. "I don't like losing." He regretted not taking the Pickering line of sleeping off the effects of the world championships. "I was straight back into training on Tuesday," he said.

Sarah Hardcastle qualified fastest for the 800 metres freestyle yesterday morning and used her night off from distance freestyle to collect her first national individual medal title, at 200 metres, in 2min 16.39sec, a fingertip ahead of Alex Bennet and Helen Slater, the defending champion.

RESULTS: Men: 400m freestyle: 1, A Clayton (City of Leeds) 3min 49.75sec; 2, P Palmer (City of Lincoln Partridge) 3:50.87; 3, P Sheehouse (Sheepcot Metro) 3:51.72.

Widnes reject bid for Howard

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

YOUTH has been given its head at Headingley, and although the future looks bright enough, it is the present that concerns Leeds; hence their entry into the transfer market yesterday.

In keeping with their reduced status, Leeds no longer have the money to call the tune. Their overtures for Harvey Howard, 25, Widnes's nomadic prop forward, were not especially welcomed at Naughton Park, given a considerable difference between the offer and the player's £135,000 valuation.

Howard, who went missing at the start of the season, is back at Widnes after returning from Australia, where he was in breach of his contract. He has been offered a two-year

deal with Sydney Eastern Suburbs. Under international rules, Widnes would receive only £35,000 for him. Leeds is a preferable option, but the Yorkshire club would have to increase the bid significantly to impress Jim Mills, the Widnes chairman.

The front row is the biggest problem for Leeds. A player of Howard's physique and growing stature could help remedy that. It was Doug Loughton, Widnes's erstwhile coach, and now manager at Leeds, who first suggested that Howard, a centre at the time, should move into the pack, where he has made great strides.

Although a back division, including six teenagers, helped Leeds last weekend at Sheffield to only their fifth

league win, Kevin Iro, Alan Tait and Simon Irving should be available after injury for the return match against the Eagles on Sunday.

This will be Gary Hetherington's first game back coaching Sheffield following the departure of Bill Gardner on Tuesday. Although he has said he will do the job until the end of the season, Clive Griffiths, the Wales and Warrington assistant coach, is being linked with the position.

Richard Blackmore, the Castleford centre, will be out for six weeks following a knee operation. Tony Smith takes his place in the Regal Trophy third round tie against Leigh on Sunday. Salford have transfer-listed their winger, Tex Evans, for £85,000.



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Seeking joy at ice station Basingstoke

Songs and poets have cruelly neglected the town of Basingstoke. There is no Basingstoke Boat Song: "I love Basingstoke in the springtime" does not scan; if you had a couple of drinks on a Saturday, I doubt you would want Basingstoke to belong to you and a "Wonderful Town" Basingstoke is not.

"Excuse me, sir," I said to the station attendant at Waterloo, "is that the Basingstoke choo-choo?"

You leave from platform 7 at a quarter past five. Read the Evening Standard and then you're in Woking. Trolley service at Farnborough.

Sandwich will not harm you... and then you're only 24 hours from Basingstoke.

The lot of the London-to-Southampton lyricist is not an enviable one. (For the record, if there was "a certain party at

walls are posters reminding us that a is for apple, h for butterfly, S is for sandwich; also for salad cream which they contain though you had to find that out for yourself.

Up some stairs overlooking the rink is a BBC Television suite, for the Beeb have retained figure skating from ITV and Alan Weekes, the most gentlemanly gentleman and knowledgeable commentator, is back in harness.

The first event is Senior Women's ten contestants, likely to be a close-run thing between Natalia Gorbenko-Risk, late of the Ukraine, recently married to Mr Risk, who is Tony's brother, and Dean's engineer, Emma Warrington, of Sunderland, and Charlene von Saher, who is as English as Lemnos Lewis. Born in Wimbledon, she left for the United States when she was a year old, and is now back to claim her birthright.

Even with this influx of talent, watching British figure skating is akin to witnessing the 100 metres run by 11-second-plus sprinters; if we get anyone in the first 20 places in the Olympics, it will come as a surprise.

Gorbenko-Risk is dressed in gold, looks like a mature fairy from the top of a Christmas tree. Warrington wears the uniform of a Russianian lift boy with much gold cord and buttons; von Saher wears the sartorial stakes with a simple black dress that misses one of her shoulders.

In the highest reaches of figure skating, there comes a moment when the demanding technique of the sport is translated into joy. Not at Basingstoke. Goodness, they skate with skill, application, dedication, courage... but their faces are set and their triple lutz, salchows, double axels and flying camels are embarked upon with just that degree of apprehension that makes the audience pray when they should cheer.

Von Saher won, skating immaculately to music that sounded as if it was relayed by the plumbing. Warrington, dancing to a rendition of *Colonel Bogey*, fell on her triple lutz; the former Soviet skater performed admirably but with just a little less grace than the ex-Wimbledonian.

Stephanie Main, a 17-year-old from Edinburgh, who has been skating since the age of two and whose father plays ice hockey for Murrayfield, gave a performance that was rich with promise. And she smiled. And she did not fall. And she is almost certain to win the juniors; we shall hear about her in years to come.



Gorbenko-Risk displays poise and grace as she glides across the ice in the British figure skating championship

The crowd, some 250, were supportive and steadily ready to applaud a successful leap and rah-rah-rah announcements of scores, for both required element and presentation, which exceeded S3.

When it was done, when

von Saher had told journalists: "No, I do not smile a lot" and "My flying camel was horrible", the resurfacing machine took to the ice. A huge, square, mechanised appliance the size of three water buffaloes with a low centre of

gravity, it sprayed water as it scraped ice as it ploughed its way deliberately around the rink. I would have given it only about 1.3 for artistic impression.

There will be more figure skating tonight and tomorrow

— and even if we are not among the leading nations of practitioners, there is always tomorrow. And there are Torvill and Dean who just may dance to *The Last Time I Saw Basingstoke My Heart Was Light and Gay*.

FREUD ON FRIDAY

the station". I was not invited to it. The leisure complex is about two miles from the station. It has a ten-screen cinema, bowling alley and ice rink. Home of the Basingstoke Beavers and this week host to the People's Phone British figure skating championship.

"Why are you doing this?" I asked the People's Phone woman.

"It is", she said, "a nice clean sport with which we are proud to be connected."

The ice rink is properly large, provides seating for nearly 2,000 people and there hangs over the place the familiar aroma of hamburgers and frying onions. A dozen video game machines encourage youth and there are many clothes rails where you can buy up-to-date shirts and blouses for amounts ending in 99p. Jars of Premium White Boot Polish, essential to well-turned-out figure skaters, are available.

The press room is situated in the creche — which makes for literal hacks around the

Cousins stresses gap he has ambitions to close

By JOHN HENNESSY



Cousins: hesitant start

STEVEN Cousins, from Wales, winner for the past four seasons, left himself with something to prove after the technical section of the British figure-skating championships at Basingstoke. He secured first place but largely because of the failings of his Scottish challenger, John Martin.

Cousins's combination jump at the outset consisted only of two doubles, lutz to toe loop, when all skaters, women as well as men, are expected to include a triple, if not two in the case of men. Cousins's

should have been the introductory lutz, but, he explained afterwards, he "snatched at it", not giving himself a full reach of the right leg, and he had to settle for two rotations. Otherwise, his programme was satisfactory, but it could not dispel the mood of disappointment. The big boys in the world at large, whom Cousins is striving to join, are putting the triple axel in their combination.

Martin fell at the same hurdle, though for a different reason. He seemed to run out of ice, for, having landed the triple lutz, he failed the double

toe loop. His triple flip, too, was sketchy and he only just held on to second place, ahead of David Inggs, of Swindon. Inggs excelled himself, against the general trend, with marks ranging as high as 5.4.

Charlene von Saher, unlike Cousins, gave promise of better things in defence of the women's title. A horrible (her word) and, probably unrepeatable skid marred the final element, a flying camel spin and there are those who would have warned something more demanding than a triple salchow in the combination. But, that said, it was a

beautiful piece of skating: fast, elegant and free-flowing.

Natalya Gorbenko-Risk, the main threat — she won a title in the former Soviet Union before her marriage to an Englishman — succeeded with a more difficult triple jump, a flip, but overall there was not the same high quality of general skating.

I have been taken to task by Joanne Conway-Owens for not recognising the merit of the triple lutz of her pupil, Emma Warrington, in practice.

Alas for both, it brought her heavily down to earth in the technical programme and

allowed Stefanie Main, an impressive 17-year-old Scot, competing at this level for the first time, to slip into third place.

Tactics are important in the technical programme and von Saher was surely wise to play safe, just as Warrington, with more to prove, was right to take the gamble.

RESULTS: Men: Technical programme: 1, S Cousins 5.4; 2, J Martin 5.3; 3, D Inggs 5.2; 4, C von Saher 5.1; 5, E Warrington 5.0; 6, N Cousins 4.9; 7, S Main 4.8; 8, E Warrington 4.7; 9, S Main 4.6; 10, N Cousins 4.5; 11, S Main 4.4; 12, E Warrington 4.3; 13, S Main 4.2; 14, N Cousins 4.1; 15, S Main 4.0; 16, E Warrington 3.9; 17, S Main 3.8; 18, N Cousins 3.7; 19, S Main 3.6; 20, E Warrington 3.5; 21, S Main 3.4; 22, N Cousins 3.3; 23, S Main 3.2; 24, E Warrington 3.1; 25, S Main 3.0; 26, N Cousins 2.9; 27, S Main 2.8; 28, E Warrington 2.7; 29, S Main 2.6; 30, N Cousins 2.5; 31, S Main 2.4; 32, E Warrington 2.3; 33, S Main 2.2; 34, N Cousins 2.1; 35, S Main 2.0; 36, E Warrington 1.9; 37, S Main 1.8; 38, N Cousins 1.7; 39, S Main 1.6; 40, E Warrington 1.5; 41, S Main 1.4; 42, N Cousins 1.3; 43, S Main 1.2; 44, E Warrington 1.1; 45, S Main 1.0; 46, N Cousins 0.9; 47, S Main 0.8; 48, E Warrington 0.7; 49, S Main 0.6; 50, N Cousins 0.5; 51, S Main 0.4; 52, E Warrington 0.3; 53, S Main 0.2; 54, N Cousins 0.1; 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Patsy Kensit as Crêpe Suzette (12.20am)

2.26 FILM: Absolute Beginners (1986) starring David Bowie as Patsy Kensit, a variation of Colin MacInnes's gritty novel, into a big-budget fantasy musical, about youth and racism in 1950s London. Directed by Julien Temple (s) (396527)

2.15 Late Licence (07504392)

2.20 Ready Steady Go! (4w). Vintage pop music programme with the likes of the Rolling Stones, Gerry Lee Lewis, Tom and Lulu (r) (3101614)

2.55 Naked City featuring Despeche Mode, Bad Boys Inc and Beavis and Butthead (r) (s) (4448350)

3.00 The Clangers. Planetary cartoon (r) (48803256)

3.10 Red Hot and Movin'. Rep artists in a musical (s) (4448350)



Bowe and Palsy Kensit. An adaptation of Colin MacLennan's gritty novel into a big-budget fantasy.

musical, about youth and racism in 1950s London.
Directed by Julien Temple (s) (938527)
2.15 **Late Licence** (6703492)
2.20 **Ready Steady Go!** (b/w). Vintage pop music
programme with the Beatles, the Rolling Stones,
Jerry Lee Lewis, Them and Lulu (r) (3101614)
2.55 **Naked City** featuring Depeche Mode, Bad Boys Inc
and Beans and Butthead (r) (s) (4448350)
3.00 **The Clinkers**. Planetary cartoon (r) (48803256)
3.10 **Red Hot and Movin'**. Rap artists in a musical
wearing about Alde (r) (9231458) Ends 3.50

SATELLITE

71. A blackmailer is
in medicines (474362)
(1991) Road movie
ung trailer (2362492)
(45564565) 4.00 The Flying Nun (7390039)
4.30 My Three Sons (7389932) 5.00 The
Beverly Hills (4199231) 5.30 Donny and
Marie (4746403) 6.00 The Don's Day Show
(7473316) 6.30 Car 54, Where Are You?
(7391768) 7.00 The Mothers-in-Law
(4168749) 7.30 The Smothers Brothers
Show (7300523) 8.00 Film: To Have and
Have Not (7391768)

er News (2912478)
ent (16381) 9.00

Room (9/7/92) 12.30
Boys' N' All (2/20/93)
7 (7048126) 1.15
1.30 French Football
Sports Awards (8/14/78)
7 4.00 Tennis, Grand
Slam Soccer Weekend
Joy (866771) 8.00 Pro
11/91 9.00 US PGA
1.15 Tennis; Grand
Slam

Football Show (931)

(93658) 8.00 *Show*
(31581) 8.00 *Eurodisco*
Isolating World Cup
Kicks: European Cups
Racing (51942) 2.00
(71294) 3.00 *Winter*
Stage Sleazebag Junior
(92661) 5.00
6 News (67994) 2.00

Championships
(42687) 9.00 Bo

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm The Wonder Years (2316) 5.30
Dangle Bay (8652) 6.00 Big Brother: Julie
(9353) 6.30 The Bill (2055) 7.00 Trivial
Pursuit (9652) 7.30 All Clued Up (9239) 8.30
Remington Steele (12841) 9.00 Filmm! Upfront
All the Way (1985): Drama about two famous
robbers on the run (80362) 10.30 The Bob
Newhart Show (40631) 11.00 Newhart
(74768) 11.30 Mary Tyler Moore (46107)
12.00-1.00am Lou Grant (47121)

Served? (41895651
3.00 Dallas (157

a Class (736570) 5.00 Yp
 575720) 3.30 East-
 ives of the Rich
 5.00 Are You Bang
 0 Broad (1188936)
 3) 10.00 The Bal
 0 Brenner (224247)
 4) 4.00(20308) 11.45 Dr
 in FILM. Great for

1) 1.50 Video Bites
Shopping at Night (8

TV ASIA

6.00am Persian Dawn (15213) **7.00** Regional News (22652) **8.00** Hindi News (51478) **8.30** Urdu News (52261.32) **8.45** English News (5221687) **9.00** Palmy Shah (45642) **10.00** Hindi Film: Kasmoti (528756) **1.00am**

Patrol (14597)

Rabbit Ears (1963/13)
 5:10 Jannet's
 David the Gnome
 Lois and Bram's
 11:30 Eureka's
 Rabbit Ears (2026)
 3:58
 2:00 Jannet's
 Time (2294) 3:00

(062213) 10.00 Music (00877282) 11.15
 Jannet's (531107) 12.00 Sam & N Live
 (5223140) 1.35-6.00 Sight and Sound
 (18321091)

TNT

Theme: A Dennis Morgan Birthday Tribute
 7.00pm God is My Co-Pilot (1945, t/w):

Rock (1774) 4.30

6.00 Gut: (5923)
 11.00 Gut: (2403)
 3.00 Gut: (386213)
 4.30 Anal-
 0 Over the Wall in
 Only in Hollywood
 21 2000 (4483838)
 21 2.00 The Globe
 8.00 Any White Irish Hiss (1947), biopic of
 Irish singer Chaucery O'Connell (41758958)
 10.26 One More Tomorrow (1946, whi): A
 playboy falls in love with a magazine editor
 Comedy with Ann Sheridan (28023126)
 12.15em Two Guys from Texas (1948):
 Dennis Morgan and fellow vaudeville star
 Jack Carson find themselves on the run from
 gangsters (34570053)

3126) 8.00 The
30 Bush Tucker Ma

11.00-12.00 Buster
(749829-92) Ends at 3.45
CNN
Twenty-four hour news
CMT
Country music from midnight to 4pm
QVC

Eq. (1) can be written as

Blanchflower believed football was for glory

By JOHN GOODBODY

DANNY Blanchflower, who captained Tottenham Hotspur to the double of FA Cup and League championship in 1960-1 and led Northern Ireland during their celebrated run in the 1958 World Cup, died in a nursing home in Surrey yesterday after suffering from Alzheimer's disease. He was 67.

He will be remembered as one of the most admired and elegant players of his era and his original approach to the game made him a significant figure long after he retired.

He was only the second

player to be elected Footballer of the Year on two occasions and won 56 caps for Northern Ireland. In 1963, he captained Tottenham when they won the European Cup-Winners' Cup, so becoming the first British club to take a European trophy.

Blanchflower possessed a rare strategic talent as a wing half, and also wrote a provocative column for the *Sunday Express* for many years. He had the ability to do the unexpected in football and also in life, most notably when he famously declined to appear on the television programme *This is Your Life*, the

first celebrity ever to do so.

His loquacity was famous. His brother Jackie, also a Northern Ireland international, said: "Danny did not kiss the Blarney stone at birth—he swallowed it."

Blanchflower's contemporaries yesterday spoke of his style, his enterprising captaincy and his qualities as a companion and friend. Billy Bingham, the Northern Ireland manager who played in front of him in the 1958 World Cup campaign, commented: "Danny possessed terrific elegance. I never saw him booked. He never roughed anyone up."

'Football has lost not only an incomparable player, a unique captain, a romantic and a humourist, but one of the game's true intellectuals.' David Miller, page 44

Billy Drennan, the Irish FA secretary from 1950-84, said: "He had that marvellous motivation quality just like Peter Doherty, our first manager whom he so admired. In fact, he moulded himself on Peter. He was a man of principle, dignity and loyalty. "Danny loved playing foot-

ball, loved playing for Northern Ireland and those heady days of Sweden were without doubt his most memorable of all."

However, he enjoyed historical moments in club football at Tottenham under a manager in Bill Nicholson who was sympathetic to his ideas.

As Johnny Haynes, of Fulham and England recalled: "He was not the fastest or finest player around but his ball control and reading of the game was second to none. His vision was superb."

Despite his deep understanding of the game, Blanchflower was unsuccessful as a manager with Northern Ireland and at Chelsea. Peter Osgood, who played under him at Stamford Bridge said: "It was a privilege to work under him. Although I feel he should not have come back into management when he did. He tried to make Chelsea play like the great

Tottenham side. He did not have the players."

He was more successful as a journalist. Alec Stock, the former manager of Orient, QPR and Fulham, said: "His column was the one that all the players read. You did not miss it."

Blanchflower wrote his own testament about football. "The game is about glory. It is about doing things in style, with a flourish, about going out and beating the other lot, not waiting for them to die of boredom."

Obituary, page 23
David Miller, page 44

CAREER

Born: Robert Dennis Blanchflower, Bloomfield, Belfast, Feb 10, 1926.
Club career: Glenrath, Barmsey (signed for £6,500 in April 1949), Aston Villa (£15,000 in March 1951), Tottenham Hotspur (£30,000 in December 1954); 383 appearances, 21 goals.
Retired: June 1964. Honours: Captain Tottenham to the League and FA Cup double in 1960-1, the FA Cup 1961-2 and the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1963. Footballer of the Year, 1959 and 1961.
International career: Northern Ireland (debut v Scotland 1950; 56 appearances). Captained them to the last eight of the 1958 World Cup and to share of international championships with England in 1957 and 1958.
Managerial career: Northern Ireland, 1976-8. Chelsea, December 1978 to September 1979.

Smith and Intrum sweep to victory

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN FREMANTLE

LAWRIE Smith and his European crew aboard Intrum Justitia swept to victory in the longest and most difficult stage of the 32,000-mile Whitbread Round the World Race and restore the British yachtman's reputation as one of the best skippers in the world.

Smith and his crew took 25 days, 14 hours, 39 minutes and six seconds to complete the 7,588-mile second leg from Punta del Este, Uruguay, thus knocking one-and-a-half days off the record, set by the New Zealand yacht, *Steinlager II*, on its way to winning the whole race in 1989.

Intrum, a Whitbread 60-class yacht and the front-runner of her class for almost the entire journey from Uruguay, also broke the world 24-hour record for monohulls during the leg, with a distance of 425 miles.

Smith's reputation had suffered after *Fortuna*, the Spanish maxi whose conversion for this race his team had masterminded, returned to Southampton a week after the start last September, having lost both her rigs.

The chance to take over the less than impressive Intrum Justitia at the end of the first leg, after the skipper, Roger Nilson, was forced to retire with a knee injury, was too good an opportunity to miss.

He took control a week

before the restart, and with his fellow crew-mate, Paul Standbridge, the only other new face in the team, transformed the crew into a winning combination.

"On paper I inherited one of the most experienced crews within the fleet, including a superb navigator in Marcel Triest. He never put a foot wrong," Smith said yesterday.

Despite beating Chris Dickson's *Tokio* into Fremantle by two hours and moving up from fifth to second in the overall standings, the Intrum crew had a tough time. "It was awful. So wet. So cold," Rick Tomlinson, a Whitbread veteran, said.

Smith, only half-jokingly, agreed: "Yes, these boats need another gift of freeboard. I've never sailed such wet boats. Not only was the water flying across the deck with the force of a fire hydrant, but it was pouring down below, filling the bilge and wetting everything below decks."

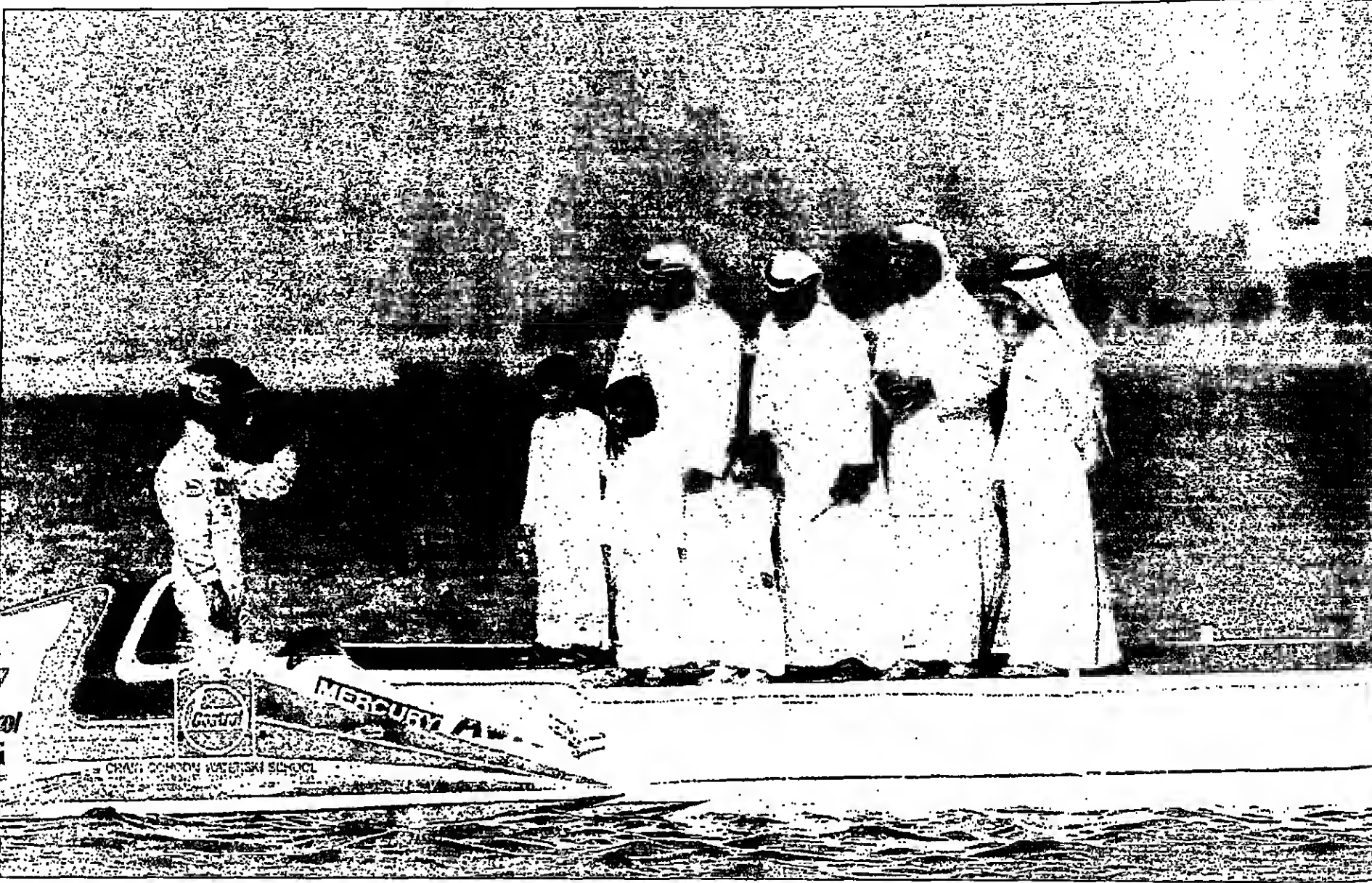
Yamaha, the third-placed 60 footer, finished six hours behind Intrum Justitia but still beat Pierre Fehlmann's first-placed maxi, *Merit Cup*. She crossed the line six and a half hours behind the leading 60-footer. "We have a big problem with speed," Fehlmann said after beating Grant Dalton's disabled maxi, *New Zealand Endeavour*, by only an hour. "This boat simply doesn't suit like my old boats," he said.

Another to report trouble was Javier de la Gandara after his Spanish 60, *Galicia 93*, limped in to take fourth place in the class.

One crew which hopes to make the most out of adversity is Brad Butterworth's American team on *Winston*. It lost the best part of a day turning back to help the Brookfield crew when it sent out an emergency signal two weeks ago, but has since recovered all it lost on the leaders.

Smith's diary, page 42

British driver points way to Middle East passage



POWERBOAT racing conjures up a clash of cultures in the Middle East as the British driver, Steve Kerton, makes a point to spectators on an Abu Dhabi dockside in the United Arab Emirates yesterday. Kerton and 28 other competitors

from ten countries, will be churning up the water around Abu Dhabi as they compete in the final round of the world inland circuit championship today. The winner will be feted at a huge — and now traditional — beach party in an

area where powerboating is rapidly gaining in popularity. Kerton is one of the favourites to win the grand prix, but the championship has already been decided, Guido Cappellini, of Italy, having accumulated 133 points to put himself in

an unbeatable position in the nine-round championship. He will be trying to finish the season in a blaze of glory by taking the last grand prix, but he will encounter keen opposition from Michael Werner, of Germany, who lies in second

place in the championship table. Jonathan Jones, of Wales, who has won the title three times, is third and is also in the running for the top prize.

Photograph by Pascal Rondeau/Alisport

Selection handed back to selectors

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE painstaking process of creating a new management structure for England's Test team shuffled forward yesterday with endorsement of the proposal to separate selection from administration. The winter meeting of the Test and County Cricket Board agreed to restore the selection committee and all other functions which fell under the remit of Ted Dexter's England committee are now to be handled by a development committee, with its own chairman.

The county delegates also voted for two backward steps in their own cricket. Sunday games are to revert from 50 to 40 overs a side next season and qualifying groups in the Benson and Hedges Cup will return in 1995.

Members of the 1992 working party, which had sought widespread views before successfully proposing the restructuring of the game, may justifiably weep. Two of their primary decisions, taken for the good of English standards, have been reversed after only 12 months and, if the Sunday league revision comes with the approval of players and spectators, that of the Benson and Hedges Cup change is bewildering.

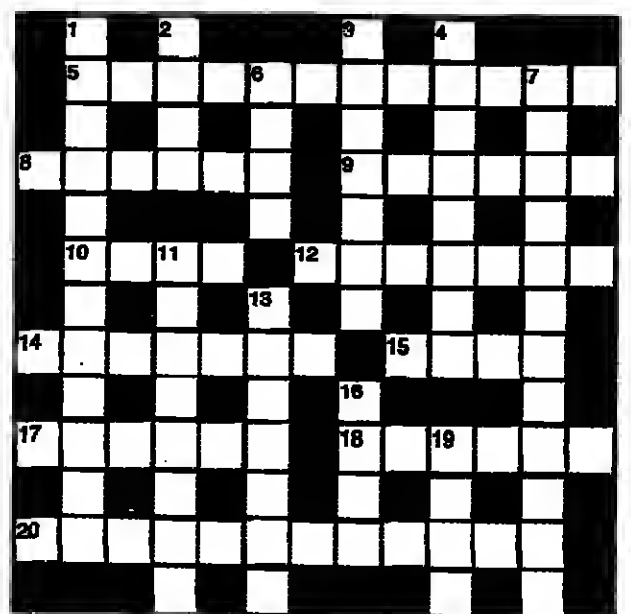
A proposal by Kent was passed after what Alan Smith, the board's chief executive, described as "a pretty close vote". So the 1995 fixture list will once more be led off by a series of soulless limited overs games at the expense of first-class cricket.

As for Sunday, the players believed it was unfair to stage such games during four-day championship fixtures. At least, bowling run-ups will remain unrestricted.

The legacy of the Dexter regime will take longer to restructure. As expected, the counties felt that team selection should be a separate entity with a chairman responsible for leading his committee's strategies, rather than delegating, as Dexter preferred to do.

A working party now been created to come up with a chairman before the next board meeting, in March.

The issue of payment, which Dexter drew as recompense for giving up his journalistic work, will be decided once a new man is appointed. Mike Smith, who is to manage the England tour of the West Indies this winter, remains a candidate. The selection committee will be completed by Keith Fletcher, the team manager, two elected selectors and the captain.



CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: The Times Concise Crosswords — Books 1 & 2 (Special Edition 240 puzzles) £5.74 each, Books 3 & 4 £4.25 each. The Times Jumbo Crosswords — Book 1 £5.25, Book 2 £5.99, Concise Book 1 £5.99, The Times Crosswords — Books 1 to 13 £4.74 each, Books 14 to 16 £4.25 each. The Sunday Times Crosswords — Books 1 to 10 £4.74 each, Book 11 £4.25, Concise Books 1 & 2 £4.25 each. Prices include p&p (UK). Cheques to *Adam Ltd*, 51 Manor Lane, London SE15 5JW. Return delivery. Tel 081-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

Just released for Christmas: The Times Crosswords — Book 17. The Times Concise Crosswords — Book 5. The Sunday Times Crosswords — Book 11.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 35

ACROSS

- 5 Meeting hall (8,4)
- 7 Servant's uniform (6)
- 9 Demonstrations (6)
- 10 Yawn (4)
- 12 Stylish confidence (7)
- 14 Little fireproof dish (7)
- 15 Sunderland river (4)
- 17 Clean keel (6)
- 18 Workplace (6)
- 20 Youngster on rolling platform (12)

DOWN

- 1 Scolding (6,2,4)
- 2 Small island or peninsula (4)
- 3 Launch track for ship (7)
- 4 Grab without justification (8)
- 6 The world as illusion (Hindu) (4)
- 7 Unofficially (3,3,6)
- 11 Effects (8)
- 13 Be in reserve (5,2)
- 16 List of duties (4)
- 19 Lose colour (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 34

ACROSS: 4 Doc 8 Clamour 9 Aryan 10 Extra 11 Bluster 12 Sidesman 14 Troy 15 Sown 16 Adjutant 20 Rectifier 21 Shorn 23 Mason 24 Beehive 25 Yes

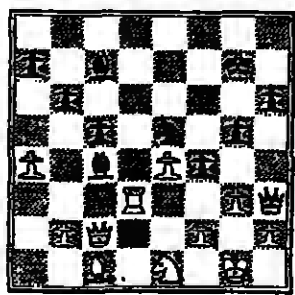
DOWN: 1 Access 2 Cant 3 Morass 4 Drabs and drabs 5 Cajun 6 Hysteria 7 Energy 13 Downcast 15 Shrimp 17 Ulster 18 Tender 19 Savvy 22 Ovid

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Short v Kasparov, Speed Chess Savoy Theatre 1993. How did Kasparov, Black to play, force a quick mate? The official book of The Times World Chess Championship (Kasparov v Short 1993, Batsford) can be ordered from The Times at £7.99. Credit card orders direct on 0937 541149. By post to The Times, Raymond Keene Office, PO Box 11, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire LS24 9XA.

Solution, page 46



WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

SUPERNACULUM

- a. A temple of Zeus
- b. A super drink
- c. Penultimate upper vertebra

SWAD

- a. A soldier
- b. S.W. Australian dingo
- c. A medicated dressing

CABALLINE

- a. Keen on cabals
- b. Slanderous
- c. Horsey

COMMENSAL

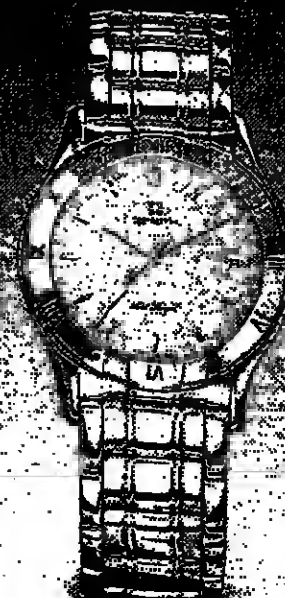
- a. Eating with
- b. In the same month
- c. Simultaneous

Answers on page 46

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